

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 2511.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1875.

PRICE
THREEPENCE
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, BURLINGTON HOUSE.

The Galleries containing the COMPETITION WORKS of the students of the Royal Academy Schools for the GOLD and SILVER MEDALS and other Premiums will be OPEN to the Public on SATURDAY, December 11, from Ten to Four. Any person admitted on presentation of his or her Card.

By Order of the Council,
FRED. A. EATON, Sec.

BRITISH SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY.—On

THURSDAY NEXT, December 16, a LECTURE will be delivered, by Mr. GEORGE BROWNING, on ICELAND; and an ethnographical Collection will be exhibited, consisting of National Dresses, Silver Ornaments, MSS., Photographs, &c., from Iceland, the Faröe Isles, and Greenland, at the Great Room of the Society of Arts, by kind permission of the Council, 15, John-street, Adelphi, W.C. His Excellency the DANISH MINISTER is in the Chair. The Chair will be taken at 8.30 P.M.

ERNEST HEATHFIELD, Hon. Secretary.

PRINTERS' PENSION, ALMSHOUSE, and ORPHAN ASYLUM CORPORATION.—The Right Rev. Bishop CLAUGHTON will PREACH, at St. SEPULCHRE'S, HOLBORN VIADUCT, before Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, the Sheriff, the Aldermen of the Ward, &c., on SUNDAY, the 12th of December, on the behalf of the above Institution. Divine Service at 11.

J. S. HODSON, Secretary.

Gray's Inn Chambers, 36, High Holborn, W.C.

MR. HENRY BLACKBURN'S LECTURES.

1. THE ART OF ILLUSTRATION, showing the Possibilities of Book and Newspaper Illustration in the Future.
2. LIFE IN ALGERIA. Illustrated by a Collection of Sketches made by Mr. Blackburn in North Africa.

Mr. Blackburn will lecture in and near London in January and February, and in the West of England in March, 1876.—For particulars address to the SECRETARY, 210, Strand, London.

LITERARY AND MUSICAL SKETCHES, by

the Messrs. G. GROSSMITH. Next Week:—Monday, Newport Pagnel Institute; Tuesday, Liddell Institute; Wednesday, Winchester Institute; Thursday, Yeovil Institute; Friday, Dorchester Saturday, Weymouth. Scotland following Week:—Coatbridge, Port Glasgow, Innerleithen, Edinburgh, &c.—Manor Lodge, Haverstock Hill, London, N.W.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—SATURDAY CON-

CERT, THIS DAY, at Three.—The Programme will include Overture, 'La Nonne Sanglante' (Gounod); Concerto (M.S.) for Violin, in F (Op. 36), Henry Holmes (First time of Performance); Symphony, No. 4, in B Flat (Beethoven); Overture to Byron's 'Manfred' (Schumann). Vocalists: Miss Ida Corral (first appearance in England), Mr. Edward Lloyd, Signor Foli, Solo Violin, Mr. Henry Holmes. Conductor, Mr. August Manns.—Stalls, 2s. 6d. and 2s. 4d.—Admission to Palace, Half-a-Crown, or by Guinea Season Ticket.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—The 'ANTIGONE' of

Sophocles, with Mendelssohn's Music, will be produced (under the direction of Mr. Charles Wyndham) on the stage, for the first time in London since 1845, on TUESDAY, December 14, and repeated on THURSDAY, December 16. Mr. J. Ryer, Mr. Howard Russell (by permission of Messrs. Sanger, Mr. Arthur Mathison, Mr. Dolman, Mr. C. Cresswell; Miss Gonservie Ward, Mr. Carline, and a carefully selected Chorus, under the direction of Mr. W. Gadsby. Conductor, Mr. August Manns.—Stalls, 2s. 6d. and 2s. 4d., may be now booked.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—CLASSIC DRAMA.—

The production of Sophocles' 'Antigone' (with Mendelssohn's Music) on TUESDAY NEXT, December 14, is creating so much interest, that the management is encouraged to announce that the initiative has taken in these revivals will be followed by the performance, at early dates, of 'EDIPUS AT COLONOS', and other Dramas never hitherto placed on the English Stage. The arrangements will be shortly advertised.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—NOTICE TO ARTISTS.—

The results of the Exhibition and Sales of this Season have been so gratifying that the Directors will again offer Medals for the best Pictures and Drawings exhibited for 1875. Receiving Days, FEBRUARY 21st and 22nd, at St. George's Hall, Langham-place.—For conditions, apply to Mr. C. W. Wase, Picture Gallery, Crystal Palace.

THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE.

SCHOLARSHIPS.—THREE or more SCHOLARSHIPS of 500 per annum each, and Two of 250, WILL BE OPEN FOR COMPETITION ON WEDNESDAY, December 15th. Holders of the latter are expected to proceed either to the Universities or to Woolwich, the Army, Cooper's Hill, &c.—For particulars apply to the Head Master, H. R. LADDELL, M.A., Spring-grove, W.

BRIGHTON COLLEGE.

Principal.—The Rev. CHARLES BIGG, M.A., late Senior Student and Tutor of Christ Church, Oxford.
Vice-Principal.—The Rev. JOSEPH NEWTON, M.A.
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The NEXT TERM commences on January 12th, 1876.

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The terms for Boarders are 60 Guineas per annum, including the School Fees and charge for Laureates.
Further information will be given on application to the Rev. ALFRED LUTWAX, Head Master, or to C. R. VINES, Esq., Brewers' Hall, Addle-street, Aldersbury.

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MR. C. H. WALL, the French and German Master

at Brighton College, receives BOARDERS. French is always spoken in the Boarding-House.

HOME EDUCATION IN PARIS.—Miss

ROBERTS, 24, Rue Bassano, Champs Elysees, Paris, receives a few YOUNG LADIES to finish their Education. Will be in London the 4th of January, to take charge of Pupils.—Further particulars, apply to Mr. JOHN LEXES, 9, Great Winchester-street, E.C.

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LITERATURE

God and the Bible: a Review of Objections to "Literature and Dogma." By Matthew Arnold. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

OBJECTIONS to reviewers, if made at all, should be confined to the journals in which they appear, without being collected and published in a book. The practice of republication is increasing, and ought to be discountenanced. Yet we are glad to meet Mr. Arnold again, for he has something to say, and says it with clearness and freshness in his own way. Besides, his object is one of the highest importance, to make the people understand and love the Bible, to guide them to it as a pure source of joys and hopes that rise far above temporal concerns. A cultivated layman, he can discourse freely on the Sacred Books, throwing aside traditional trammels, breaking through the hard crust of prejudice, and exhibiting views of religion by which earnest men may live amid the perplexing uncertainty of the world.

The volume is defensive of the opinions set forth in a previous one. It expands, illustrates, and upholds the same ideas as those to which bold utterance had been given before an English public slow to listen to anything about the Bible which time has not sanctioned, or bishops pronounced safe, or churches repeated.

After a long Preface and a shorter Introduction, the author divides his remarks into chapters, headed, "The God of Miracles," "The God of Metaphysics," "The God of Experience," "The Bible-Canon," "The Fourth Gospel from Without," and "The Fourth Gospel from Within." As to his idea of what God means in the Bible, viz., the Eternal not ourselves that makes for righteousness, we believe it to be inadequate. The writer is so intent upon getting something that can be verified, that he disowns the conception of God as a Person, and fixes instead upon "a law or power not ourselves." His description of Israel's belief on this subject is imperfect and incorrect. Idealizing Israel's religious character as he does, he attributes to the Jews a conception of his own; for there is little doubt that the Old Testament exhibits a prevailing belief in a *Personal Being*. The Psalter is full of it. Hence the appropriation of the Absolute Spirit by the pious mind. "O God, thou art my God." But pure monotheism struggled long for the complete mastery over the remains of polytheistic representations; and the monotheistic Jehovah-worship did not emerge in its fulness till after the Maccabean struggles. Mr. Arnold is right in emphasizing *righteousness* as the great requirement of the Eternal in the Old Testament; but he seeks needlessly after what can be verified, because faith is the prominent feature and feeling of religion—faith in an Absolute Spirit ever present and operating, who is the Father of men, to be loved and obeyed because He is good. He may call this God "a magnified and non-natural man"; but the Eternal power not ourselves presents what it is difficult to *love* with all the heart. If the language of the Bible be approximative and full of figure, nothing is gained by discarding the idea of a personal God, and putting

"an eternal law not ourselves" instead of it; nor can any valid objection be made to the use of *Being* or *Spirit* as applied to Him. It is superior to the indefinite something of Mr. Arnold's imagining, and can even be better realized than his, inasmuch as the human heart feels the need of a *near* God, whom it can love with earnest affection, and enjoy with intense comfort. It is this internal craving which assigns to God in figurative language a human form, that He may be brought all the closer, as it were, within love's embrace.

To talk of "laying hold of the method and secret of Jesus," which is said to be the chief thing in the Gospels, is surely an unnecessary innovation in phraseology when the love of God is declared by Jesus himself to be the chief thing, the essence of religion. The righteousness of God in the Old Testament, His love in the New, are the things which faith receives and rests upon. Mr. Arnold's discussions about the God of metaphysics and the God of experience seem to us unnecessary. Even if they were more correct than they are, they are incapable of giving greater enjoyment of the Bible to such as are sincerely looking for it. It does not follow that the Bible will fail its readers unless they are provided with a sure meaning for the word God. An adequate meaning they cannot have; but one sufficiently correct for their faith to rest upon they may, even in attaching to the word the idea of an ever-present Spirit, working and willing good—good amid evil—ultimate, perfect good, in the wide domain of creation. What has led the critic to combat so vehemently the representation of God as a person who thinks and loves, is the belief that it leads to the assumption of miracles. This, however, is not a necessary consequence. Yet he writes:—

"He does well, who, steadily using his own eyes in this manner, and escaping from the barren routine whether of the assailants of the Bible or of its apologists, acquires the serene and imperturbable conviction, indispensable for all fruitful use of the Bible in future, that in travelling through its reports of miracles he moves in a world, not of solid history, but of illusion, rumour, and fairy-tale. Only, when he has acquired this, let him say to himself that he has by so doing achieved nothing, except to get rid of an insecure reliance which inevitably some day or other would have cost him dear, of a staff in religion which must, sooner or later, have pierced his hand. One other thing, however, he has done besides this. He has discovered the hollowness of the main ground for making God a person who thinks and loves, a magnified and non-natural man. Only a kind of man magnified could so make man the centre of all things, and interrupt the settled order of nature in his behalf, as miracles imply. But in miracles we are dealing, we find, with the unreal world of fairy-tale. Having no reality of their own, they cannot lend it as foundation for the reality of anything else."

The best part of the book is that on the Bible-canon. Here the statements are pertinent and valuable, though the subject is handled briefly. The gradual formation of the canonical list in both Testaments is a fact which history presents and verifies. No infallible body or council determined the one or the other; on the contrary, certain books were long suspected, and got admission into the sacred catalogue with considerable difficulty.

The last chapters on the Fourth Gospel treat

of the external evidence respecting its date and author, as well as the internal character belonging to it. The external evidence has been often exhibited more fully than here, where the strongest parts of it alone are set forth with the object of proving St. John's connexion with the work, and its early date in the second century. The critic speaks strongly and confidently—more so, perhaps, than he is justified in doing. A less vigorous tone would be better, especially as some of his statements are doubtful. Thus, of Hippolytus he affirms that "he manifestly quotes the dicta of Basileides, and no one who had not a theory to serve would ever dream of doubting it." There are persons, however, who are as free from preconceived theories as our critic, who doubt the fact; who do not rely on the *φησι* without a subject, as implying "Basileides says"; and believe that the Bishop of Ostia has confounded the dicta of the master with those of his disciples. At the beginning of the description of Basileides and his system, Hippolytus says: "let us see how openly Basileides and Isidore, and all the troop of them, &c.," after which comes the subjectless *he* says, and the same word occurs in other chapters, where it stands without a reference to any person in the context. In the 27th chapter of the seventh Book, which concludes the account of Basileides, the same verb occurs; and the last paragraph begins with the expression, "but that we may not omit anything about their doctrine," showing that *he* and *they*, the opinions of master and disciples, had been described together. The loose use of the verb is well illustrated in the fifth book of the *Philosophumena*, describing the Naaseni to whom he applies the subjectless *φησι* (p. 132, ed. Duncker). In the 9th chapter, beginning with "the Phrygians say," the same indefinite singular verb occurs (p. 167).

Another example of the same dogmatism, coupled with a dominant desire to disparage German critics, appears in the allusion to a well-known passage of Barnabas's epistle:—

"In the so-called Epistle of Barnabas, a work of the end of the first century, the words 'many called, but few chosen,' are quoted with the formula 'as it is written,' implying that they are taken from Scripture. The Greek words are the very same that we find in St. Matthew, and no one without a theory to warp him would doubt that the writer of the epistle quotes, not, indeed, necessarily from our Gospel of St. Matthew, but from a collection of sayings of Jesus. Dr. Volkmar, however, maintains that what is here quoted as Scripture must be a passage of the Apocrypha: 'There be many created, but few shall be saved.' Strauss applauds him, and says that 'beyond all doubt' this is so. And why? Because, to cite a third well-known critic, Dr. Zeller, 'if in a work of earlier date than the middle of the second century we find a passage quoted as Scripture, we may be sure that either the quotation is not from the New Testament, or else the work is not genuine; because Scripture is not used for the New Testament till long after the middle of the second century.' That is to say, because the New Testament is not generally called Scripture till after the middle of the second century, that it should occasionally have been called so before is impossible."

Here the true question is not so easily settled. It may be that the critics he names and others besides, such as Scholten and Lipsius, are unable to weigh evidence in the common sense scales of Mr. Arnold; but we are disposed to agree with them notwithstanding.

The citation is not certain. The original may be 4 Esdras viii. 3, after all; and even if the writer took the words he cites from St. Matthew's Gospel, it is possible that he used "it is written" with reference to the prototype in the Old Testament. Of such interchanges, examples occur in writers of the second century; and it is all the more probable that this is another, from the fact that 4 Esdras is elsewhere considered a prophetic book, and therefore of canonical authority. The citation by Barnabas of a gospel as canonical is wholly improbable, since even Justin, thirty years after, never quotes the New Testament writings as *Scripture*. The thing would be anomalous, opposed to the entire history of the first half of the second century.

The account of the Fourth Gospel which the writer before us seeks to recommend is the following:—

"In his old age, St. John, at Ephesus, has *logia*, 'sayings of the Lord,' and has incidents in the Lord's story, which have not been published in any of the written accounts that were beginning at that time to be handed about. The elders of Ephesus,—whom tradition afterwards makes into apostles, fellows with St. John,—move him to bestow his treasure on the world. He gives his materials, and the presbytery of Ephesus provides a redaction for them and publish them. The redaction, with its unity of tone, its flowingness and connectedness, is by one single hand;—the hand of a man of literary talent, a Greek Christian, whom the Church of Ephesus found proper for such a task. A man of literary talent, a man of soul also, a theologian. A theological lecturer, perhaps, as in the Fourth Gospel he so often shows himself,—a theological lecturer, an earlier and a nameless Origen; who in this one short composition produced a work outweighing all the folios of all the Fathers, but was content that his name should be written only in the Book of Life. And, indeed, what matters literary talent in these cases? Who would give a care to it? The Gospel is John's, because its whole value is in the *logia*, the sayings of the Lord, which it saves; and by John these *logia* were furnished. But the redaction was not John's, and could not be; and at the beginning of the second century, when the work appeared, many there would be who knew well that John's the redaction was not. Therefore the Church of Ephesus, which published the work, gave to it that solemn and singular *imprimatur*: 'He who hath seen bath borne witness, and his witness is true; and that man knoweth that he saith true, that ye may believe.' The Asiatic public, to whom the document originally came, understood what this *imprimatur* meant, and were satisfied."

An ingenious elaboration of this alleged origin and character belonging to the Gospel is given in the last chapter of the book, where specimens of separation appear between the authentic sayings of Jesus and the form they now bear. The endeavour to find a kernel of genuine traditions in the Gospel is not new. It has been made by Weisse and Freytag, by Weitzsäcker and Holtzmann. Ewald himself proposed a theory of the same sort. These critics are anxious to save the discourses at the expense of the historical parts; although others, as Renan, invert the process. It is curious to see the way in which Mr. Arnold describes his theological lecturer—the man of talent who puts the real *logia* of Jesus, which St. John's memory supplied, into the places and shapes they appear in. The redactor amplifies, develops, expands, connects, combines, puts the gnomic sayings of Jesus into articulated and flowing discourse; but he had the disadvantage of a foreigner who

presents manners and localities not his own. The primitive themes are the things to be extracted from the Gospel—the true utterances of Jesus which it contains; the surroundings are comparatively of little value. So then the difference between Baur and Mr. Arnold is much one of degree. According to the former, the writer invents, idealizes, speculates; according to the latter, he illustrates, expands, and gives his own setting to a few short sayings of the Master. Amid the repeated descriptions given of the theologian who writes the Gospel, Mr. Arnold involuntarily admits *invention* on his part; for, in page 345, he writes, Jesus "is made to say things which He never said." This suggests a remark touching the way in which the critic usually refers to Baur. The head of the Tübingen school receives many rebukes. So do his disciples and German professors for their *mechanical* criticism, their *tendency-theories*, their finding of artistic skill and forgery where there is none. But Mr. Arnold's "literary arranger" is also an artist in his way, though not a consummate one. He invents sayings for Jesus which He never uttered. Yet the "literary arranger" is treated rather unceremoniously by our critic on account of the way in which he has manipulated the primitive themes. There is little doubt that Baur dated the Gospel too late, and pushed his theory about the writer and his object to an extreme. This is generally admitted, and therefore his disciples have considerably modified the views of the master, dating the Gospel earlier, and finding in it less of the symbolic. Mr. Arnold should have combated the modified, not the extreme theory; but in that case his animadversions would have lost much of their point.

After all the ingenuity and undoubted critical ability displayed in the present volume, the view of the Fourth Gospel which it advocates is improbable. The sacred book has plan and unity; it bears the impress of a single writer; and if, as Mr. Arnold thinks, the writer has confused places, events, incidents, if he has buried hints of facts under additions, and made or repeated stories of miracles built up on a *logion* or two of Jesus's, it is hard to find the genuine traditional sayings of Jesus. They cannot be easily disentangled from their surroundings; and the specimens of disentanglement here given are, to say the least, improbable. It is more consistent to make the theological lecturer blunder in both departments of his work than in one only; to suppose him a free *inventor* in both. If he be not the apostle, it were rash to deny the existence of authentic traditions in all departments.

The critic has done a service to the cause of righteousness by vindicating a high place for the Scriptures, at a time when they are depreciated. He sees that the Bible must stand by its own inherent value, its adaptation to the higher needs of humanity, not by external evidences. He has put many points relating to the Scriptures in a luminous and persuasive way. Above all, he has recalled modern Christians to the far-reaching words of Jesus—pushed as they have been into the background by the dogmatic speculations of later ages—words fitted to bring love, truth, and peace into the heart of humanity, sickened with forms of faith on which it feasts and is not fed; and if we often disagree with him, especially in the

dividing process applied to the Fourth Gospel, his illustrations are generally happy, and his side references hit the nail on the head, although sometimes severe. What, for instance, can be happier than this?—

"The common notion about the Canon is so plainly false, that to take it for granted, as the Dean of Carlisle does, and to found indignant denunciations upon it, will one day be resented as an outrage upon common sense and notorious facts. It is like the Bishop of Lincoln's allegation that 'episcopacy was an institution of God Himself'; an allegation which might make one suppose that in Genesis, directly after God had said 'Let there be light' (or, perhaps, even before it), he had pronounced, 'Let there be bishops.' There are plenty of true reasons for the existence of bishops without invoking false ones; and the time will come when thus to invoke the false ones solemnly and authoritatively will shock public opinion."

We do not approve of the tone usually assumed towards the unfortunate Germans. The author prides himself on his English, practical common sense, using it as a wand to drive away fantastic reasonings. But he can play at reasoning himself, as the reader may see from the genesis given of the miracle of Lazarus's Resurrection.

The Eastern Seas; being a Narrative of the Voyage of H.M.S. 'Dwarf.' By Capt. B. W. Bax, R.N. (Murray.)

THE style of a book of travel claims large indulgence. Our concern is more with its matter than its manner, and we have much reason to be grateful to the traveller who can tell us what he has seen in plain words. Some travellers are able to delight whilst they inform us, but this power is the result of a combination of qualities so seldom possessed that we should not expect it.

Capt. Bax is rather a dry writer; he introduces matter that is neither interesting nor necessary, he is abrupt in his transitions, and he does not take any pains to make us see the scenes which he describes, but he gives us a certain amount of useful information in a way that is still very readable.

The best parts of the book are those which treat of the Island of Formosa, and the Russian possessions on the sea-board of Tartary and Eastern Siberia. The author might have left the principal part of his experiences in China and Japan unwritten with advantage, for he has but retrodden old ground here, and that in the track of very able men, who have left him little to tell us. Old ground may be occupied again and again with value—a beautiful view may be painted by a hundred artists, and come fresh upon us to the last, but it is because each painter has given it an idiosyncratic treatment in accordance with his peculiar receptive and demonstrative power—has shown us a different point of view, tint, or mood, so that sameness of subject is forgotten in the infinite variety of effect. Our author does not handle his old material "with a difference," but he gives us some very satisfactory information as to the success of missionary effort in China, particularly at the mission stations south-west of Amoy. He attends a service at one little chapel in company with "about 120 Chinese.....some of whom had come from a long distance, bringing their dinners with them.....They formed a very attentive congregation; many of

them could read the service, and all joined in singing the hymns fervently." He makes excursions on shore, travels a little up country with the missionaries, and sees something of the village life, which has its drawbacks, for "the Chinese steal potatoes and fruit from each other so frequently, that every field of any size has a watch-house, built of straw or bamboo, just large enough for a man to lie in and look out for thieves," and "Of late years tigers have increased very much.....and often make a raid into a village, carrying off pigs and dogs." In the paddy-fields, some twenty miles beyond the city of Cheek-yuen, on the River Han, "the paths across the fields..... generally consist of a series of stones placed lengthwise about the width of a respectable curbstone. The country people were all very civil.....On approaching the city, our path led through orange groves, and we met many Chinese gentlemen out for a stroll on foot and horseback, enjoying the shade of the trees." Capt. Bax observed that the Chinese were erecting new batteries at Nanking "for heavy guns to command the anchorage, and the entrance to the creek leading to the arsenal.The arsenal is situated on a creek that runs beneath the city walls.....and steam launches can ascend the whole way to it..... The Chinese workmen do everything.....They were busily engaged in making torpedoes which were to contain 1,000 pounds of powder.These torpedoes were fitted to be fired either by electricity or concussion, and if handled by people who could understand and manage them, they would effectually prevent vessels ascending the Yang-tze-Kiang. They were also busy about making Hale's rockets."

We quote one fact from our author's record of his visit to Japan. He tells us that the Japanese men-of-war sent on the expedition to Formosa "had no foreign officers, their own being smart and able men, who afterwards proved they could take care of their own ships on a very dangerous coast, even during the typhoon season." So much for the effect of a little European instruction on the Japanese.

Capt. Bax makes a compilation from various authors, which acquaints us with the history of Formosa up to the period of his visit, and this is a convenience; and he appears to have seen a good deal of the interior of the island. The Peppohoans, who are "the descendants of the savage tribes who inhabited the plain country in Formosa,.....and,..... being conquered by the Chinese, have mixed with them to a great extent," appear to be a promising people, and to receive Christianity well. "The Chinese (on the island) like to have Peppohoan women for their wives, as they can do so much more work, being finer and stronger women than the Chinese. They do not contract their feet, and dress the hair differently.Altogether they are prettier and more useful." The savage tribes of Formosa tattoo their faces; the men wear a "tunic of coarse grass cloth," and "the fighting women.....a tunic.....and a short petticoat, or piece of grass cloth." Their huts "looked very neat, being built of palm leaves and bamboo. Over the door (of some), the skulls of the wild boar, deer, and monkeys were fastened up in rows," and one occupant displayed "the tails of six Chinamen tied up in a bunch, which he said had belonged to men

that he had killed." They cultivate Indian corn and red or mountain rice, but "in the most careless manner." Their visitor appeared to find them friendly enough.

The Russian territory visited promises to come into important play in the future. Capt. Bax characterizes Vladivostok as "a deep and safe harbour, well fitted for defence, and to become the principal naval station in Eastern Siberia." He tells us that "the Russians have already established a dockyard and building-slip for small vessels, and when the plant of machinery is brought down..... it will be a very good and useful naval port.The soil (about the harbour) appeared very fertile. Wrangel Bay is a beautiful land-locked harbour,.....and is capable of holding a large fleet. The hills (surrounding)..... are not high, and (are).....covered with thick scrub, very difficult to penetrate, and long grass up to one's breast, which afforded excellent cover for deer and game." At Olga Bay "cattle and sheep were plentiful and cheap, and we caught plenty of salmon with the seine, from nine pounds weight and under. In the streams we caught a few trout with the fly." "St. Vladimir Bay is a large harbour, containing several bays.....quite sheltered from all winds." All the signs of Russian progress now being made on these coasts are worthy of attention from the student of Russian policy, and should serve as a text for thought.

New Symbols. By Thomas Gordon Hake. (Chatto & Windus.)

WHEN, four years since, Dr. Hake gave us his first volume of poems, it was evident that, spite of many imperfections and blemishes, a new and independent poet was amongst us. The narrative-lyric of 'Madeline,' perplexed, erratic, and marred by eccentricities of manner, displayed, nevertheless, elevation and vigour of idea, and, at times, singular daring and intensity of utterance. It might, however, at that period have been predicted that the writer's successes would be found less in ideal than in familiar poetry. Of this latter kind a striking example was given in the parable entitled 'Old Souls,' which, for its quaint enforcement of spiritual views by homely illustrations, showed a faculty akin to that of Quarles, though the work of the modern poet had in it a glowing energy which the writer of the 'Emblems' seldom exhibited. A subsequent volume, entitled 'Parables,' in which some of the earlier poems were reprinted, proved, however, not only that Dr. Hake was freeing himself from crudities and mannerisms, but that he was cultivating with better success the ideal style at which he had aimed in 'Madeline.' His present volume shows still further advance in the same direction. It exhibits a more developed imagination and more sustained beauty of treatment than its predecessors, while it is distinguished, like them, by keen and original observation and a vein of sympathy at once tender and exalted.

The opening poem, entitled 'The Snake-Charmer,' is thoroughly new in its idea, which is conveyed through details remarkable for their truth, their vivid colour, and harmonious combination. Old, sick, and feeble, the snake-charmer threads his way once more through a

tropical forest till he sinks beside a pool, by which, in better days, he had exercised his cunning. As the poem proceeds a strange metempsychosis is disclosed. The boundary lines of humanity and nature seem to blend. The influences of wood, water, and the lower animal life pass into the being of the dying enchanter, to whom, on the other hand, the external world puts on the attributes of man. He is at length slain by one of the serpent race which he had so often subdued. The reptile's eyes "grow human" while inflicting the fatal wound; the cedar outspreads its arms exultingly; and vulture, tiger, and hyena celebrate with discordant voices their triumph over the lord of the creation. The strife between Man and Nature is thus symbolized; the former so often victorious by higher knowledge, the latter finally conquering by superior persistence. A quotation, though barely hinting Dr. Hake's general design, will show how happily in description he can blend imagination with reality:—

The old snake-charmer,—once he played
Soft music for the serpent's ear,
But now his cunning hand is stayed;

He knows the hour of death is near.
And all that live in brake and bough,
All know the brand is on his brow.

Yet where his soul is he must go:
He crawls along from tree to tree.
The old snake-charmer, doth he know
If snake or beast of prey he be?
Bewildered at the pool he lies
And sees as through a serpent's eyes.

Weeds wove with white-flowered lily crops

Drink of the pool, and serpents hie
To the thin brink as noonday drops,
And in the froth-daubed rushes lie.
There rests he now with fastened breath
'Neath a kind sun to bask in death.

The pool is bright with glossy dyes
And cast-up bubbles of decay:
A green death-leaven overlies
Its mottled scum, where shadows play
As the snake's hollow coil, fresh shed,
Rolls in the wind across its bed.

No more the wily note is heard
From his full flute—the rising air
That tames the snake, decoys the bird,
Worries the she-wolf from her lair.
Fain would he bid its parting breath
Drown in his ears the voice of death.

Still doth his soul's vague longing skim
The pool beloved: he hears the hiss
That siffles at the sedgy rim,
Recalling days of former bliss,
And the death-drops, that fall in showers,
Seem honied dews from shady flowers.

There is a rustle of the breeze
And twitter of the singing bird;
He snatches at the melodies,
And his faint lips again are stirred:
The olden sounds are in his ears;
But still the snake its crest uprears.

His eyes are swimming in the mist
That films the earth like serpent's breath:
And now,—as if a serpent hissed,—
The husky whisperings of Death
Fili ear and brain—he looks around—
Serpents seem matted o'er the ground.

Soon visions of past joys bewitch
His crafty soul; his hands would set
Death's snare, while now his fingers twitch
The tasselled reed as 'twere his net.
But his thin lips no longer fill
The woods with song; his flute is still.

The line italicized conveys, with striking effect, the confusedly mingling conditions of man and the lower creation which the poet desires to express. The last stanza of our extract has, however, something of the hardness and strain which at times marred his earlier

efforts. It is an example of poetical patch-work, the fine meaning being wrought out by ingenious details, always fatal to imagination, rather than by spontaneous fancy. Except for the sake of rhyme, there is no motive for comparing the "tasselled reed" to a net. The converse simile would obviously fail. To liken a net to a flute would be singularly infelicitous and laboured. Dr. Hake can afford to be reminded of a few defects of this kind, now fast disappearing. A flaw or two in point of treatment may be found even in the admirable poem entitled 'The Birth of Venus'; for Dr. Hake's descriptions are sometimes statistical in their enumeration of particulars, and we have exhaustive inventories of a scene or a mood of mind, when we should prefer suggestions. Yet this very poem, taken as a whole, displays such beauty, both of idea and form, that it may rank with the best achievements in recent poetry. The revelation of Venus rising after a night of storm from the becalmed sea, with a face

As if at length inheriting its dreams, is not to be excelled. The line quoted is one of those supreme felicities of expression on which even true poets do not often chance. It has ethereal beauty, combined with wealth of suggestion; Keats or Shelley might have written it in his best moments.

To other pieces in the collection our reference must necessarily be brief. 'Ecce Homo,' which contains a vivid description of the blind man restored to sight, has, like most of its companions, an inner significance. In like manner 'The Exile'—which shows a delicate and high-born girl amidst the rigours, very forcibly painted, of a Northern winter—depicts the soul yearning for its highest life, while imprisoned in mortality. 'Reminiscence'—in which the face of a child revives the memories of a lost wife—scarcely pretends to any esoteric meaning. It is a simple, domestic idyll, full of tenderness, music, and sweet glimpses of Nature, as perfect in form, moreover, as anything the writer has given us. In 'Michael Angelo' the influence of sculpture is finely conveyed. How happy, for instance, is the final line of this quatrain:—

He wanders here and there a studious guest
In halls of state where old-world marbles fill
The solemn garden, and through ages rest
In high demeanour and impassive will.

'The Painter' catches freshly and truly some delightful aspects of Nature in the very verse which deplores man's inability to arrest her more subtle charms. The entire book breathes a pure and ennobling influence, shows welcome originality of idea and illustration, and, as we have already implied, yields the highest proof of imaginative faculty and mature power of expression that its author has yet given us.

East and West London. By the Rev. Harry Jones, M.A. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

WHEN a book represents the individuality of its author, and when that individuality is in itself admirable, little is left for a reader to desire. Both of these conditions are here fulfilled; and if testimony were wanting to prove the excellence of the English system of providing its clerics with secular training, in place of rearing them in an atmosphere exclusively theological or sacerdotal, and merging the citizen and the man in the priest, this

little volume would amply supply it. Mr. Jones's life, work, and book are a triple demonstration of the fallacy of the cry that science is incompatible with religion. For, while basing them all on the scientific theorem that man is the result of his conditions, it is in his steadfast endeavour by amending the conditions of those committed to his charge, and so out of their lower to develop their higher nature, that his religion manifests itself. In his pictures of London all unconsciously has Mr. Jones produced a life-like portrait of himself. Perusing his pages, the eye is constantly resting on the stalwart figure of the rector of St. George's-in-the-East, striding along like an animated lighthouse, either on some mission of direct usefulness to others or in pursuit of the recreation necessary to keep his powers of usefulness at their highest pitch. Thus we see him at the outset returning from a trip in a river steamboat, and having in tow a "lovely brown web-footed retriever" just rescued from some river roughs. We see him in the reading-desk during the famous anti-ritual *émeute*, keenly appreciating the incongruity of two rival congregations in the same church, one manifesting its high-church predilections by chanting the Psalms at the top of its lungs, while the other vindicates its Protestantism by shouting them in a quarter-deck voice. We see him genial and full of charity, but refusing to be cajoled into almsgiving by the hypocritical unction of communicant mendicants, and braving the charge of hardness of heart by denouncing the degradation wrought by philanthropists "with full purses and soft hearts." We see him one day, for an insult offered to a woman, flogging a rough till he could not sit down for a fortnight (these roughs easily cry, he adds), and another, with extended arms forcibly holding apart a couple of infuriated viragos. We see him, too, in his manifold encounters with dirt and disease, ferreting out cases of cholera and smallpox, and superintending in person the burning of infected clothing. In one part of London, it was the custom, he tells us, to disinfect bedding by baking it in the oven at a baker's shop. His animating motive appears through all:—"That which is good is of God, though it be but the sweetening of a drain." When necessary to resist a threatened invasion of smallpox, he made the children eager to be vaccinated by having his own arm first operated on in the schoolroom. So that "several little folks who had been overlooked came afterwards with almost a complaint that they had missed their share."

Beside the personal anecdote that reveals so much of the life of the labouring classes, Mr. Jones gives a graphic description of the trades and industries of East London, of the docks and their multifarious populations, of the bonded stores, of Jamrach and his wild-animal depository, of Ratcliffe Highway, with its homes and its snares for sailors, until the reader feels himself at home with all sorts and conditions of strange life and folk, and sympathizes heartily with the good rector's schemes for schools and gardens and play-grounds, for clubs and libraries, and every device capable of aiding in the struggle against poverty, ignorance, disease, and sin. Against the exhibition of sympathy in the form of almsgiving he is never tired of inveighing, and says many a good word for the Charity

Organization Society. It is in the example of good living in their midst, and constant, unflagging personal warfare against every hindrance to improvement—a warfare carried on, not by verbal denunciation, not by sermons and prayers merely, but by seizing every opportunity of substituting something that is good for something that is bad—that he finds the true source of amendment.

But, for the poor, to be worse off, is not to be worse than, the rich; and Mr. Jones is careful to combat the prevailing notion, ascribing it to the fact that among the poor there is no concealment. Their families are so closely huddled together that they are always in sight of each other. They have no cupboards to keep their skeletons in. The son has to sow his wild oats in the presence of his parents. In many respects the East compares favourably with the West. Mr. Jones's previous post was in Soho; and he describes his present parish as free, in consequence of its spaciousness, from many of the evils which result from overcrowding in the West. For many shrewd and practical remarks on pastoral and ecclesiastical economy, parochial subdivision (to which Mr. Jones is strongly opposed), church endowment, and lay help, we must refer our readers to the book itself. For, small though it is, it is very full. If we induce many to do this, we shall have attained our end. A better antidote to recent gloomy forebodings of our national decadence can hardly be found.

THE TENURE OF LAND.

The History of Landholding in England. By Joseph Fisher. (Longmans & Co.)

THE remark at the beginning of this essay on the importance of disentangling as far as possible the two different elements in the formation of the English and other land systems, original custom and subsequent conquest, is pertinent and just. There is historical truth too in the proposition that the disintegration of the tribal system and the dissolution of the commune were not brought about by natural evolution from the original elements, but were the results of conquest; and, so far as the creation of individual property is concerned, much might be said in support of Mr. Fisher's view, that "the appropriation to individuals of land which was common to all, was mainly brought about by conquest, and was guided by impulse, rather than regulated by principle." But what is meant by land having previously been "common to all"? Mr. Fisher appears to mean common to the whole human race, which it no more was according to the practice or institutions of mankind before individual property arose than afterwards. After citing Selden, Locke, Blackstone, and Vattel, whose speculations on the subject are surely rather out of date, Mr. Fisher states his own view to be that "the early races seem, either by reasoning or by instinct, to have arrived at the conclusion that every man was, in right of his being, entitled to food; that food was a product of the land, and, therefore, every man was entitled to the possession of land, otherwise his life depended on the will of another." We can hardly overrate our real ignorance of the motives and mental processes of the early races, but one thing is certain, that they did not hold that

"every man" was "in right of his being," entitled either to food or to land. They recognized no rights of any sort in the men of other nations; their system was essentially exclusive, unsocial, and even inhuman; nor did they recognize a general human right to the possession of land even within the pale of their own society: not to speak of slaves, they excluded as a general rule the women of their own tribe and class from the possession of land.

Proceeding to the discussion of the systems arising from conquest, Mr. Fisher includes among them the ancient custom of Borough English, which he treats as "a development of a warlike system under which each son as he came to manhood entered upon the wars, and left the patrimonial lands to the youngest son," a view which is worth consideration, but it is odd that Mr. Fisher, who is fond of citing authors of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, should not allude to Sir Henry Maine's remarks on the origin of Borough English in his 'Early History of Institutions.' Again, the amount of the population of Britain in early ages has been a subject of controversy with modern writers, and widely different conclusions have been arrived at respecting it. Mr. Fisher, however, roundly asserts, without citing any authority, that, in the Roman period, the population was "about 1,500,000. The population in 1066 was 2,150,000; in 1154, it was 3,350,000; in 1485, the population was 4,000,000." We might ask what ground there is for this estimate of the population of Britain under the Romans; but it is more important to inquire by what road Mr. Fisher has arrived at so positive a conclusion respecting its amount in 1154 and 1485. He says not a word either of the Black Death, or of the wide diversity of opinion on the part of recent investigators respecting the numbers in England before and after its ravages. Mr. Seeböhm has convinced himself that, on the eve of the pestilence of 1349, the population numbered at least 4,000,000, and that after the second plague of 1361, it had fallen to 2,000,000; while Mr. Thorold Rogers concludes that, in the first half of the fourteenth century, it could not have exceeded 2,500,000, and was probably not more than 2,000,000. Yet Mr. Fisher, on his own unsupported dictum, bases a contradiction to Chief Justice Fortescue's description of the well-being of the English people in his own time. This "flattering picture" by the famous author of the 'De Laudibus Legum Angliæ,' "is not supported," according to Mr. Fisher,—

"by the existing disaffection, and the repeated applications for redress from the serfs and the smaller farmers, and the simple fact that the population had increased under the Normans—a period of 88 years—from 2,150,000 to 3,350,000, while under the Plantagenets—a period of 300 years—it only increased to 4,000,000, the addition to the population in that period being only 650,000."

The "simple fact" is a simple assertion on Mr. Fisher's part, and one which takes no account whatever of the Black Death. He adds:—"The average increase in the former period was nearly 14,000 per annum, while in the latter it did not much exceed 2,000 per annum. This goes far to prove the evil from civil wars and the oppression of the oligarchy." Some distinction might surely be made between the Barons' War under Simon de Mont-

fort and the Wars of the Roses, although both must be included in the "civil wars" between 1154 and 1485; and the evils of civil war and oligarchic oppression might be proved without the aid of Mr. Fisher's questionable population statistics.

The main object of Mr. Fisher's essay is to establish a particular theory respecting the disappearance of the *Liberi Homines* of Domesday Book and the so-called laws of William the Conqueror. "The successful efforts of the nobles" had, he says (pp. 53-4), "during the three centuries of Plantagenet rule, nearly obliterated the 'Liberi Homines' (whose rights the Norman conquerors had sedulously guarded), and had reduced them to a state of vassalage. They held the lands of their lord at his will, and paid their rent by military service." Previously he had said, p. 50, "The *Liberi Homines*, the freemen, who were Odhal occupiers, holding *in capite* from the sovereign, nearly disappeared in the Wars of the Roses." We do not understand how freeholders, rendering military service, can be said to have held land at the will of the lord. The tenants who so held were villeins or copyholders, rendering not military but agricultural services. But if they had been "nearly obliterated" under the Plantagenets, and "disappeared" in the Wars of the Roses, how are we to account for their sweeping eviction in the reigns of the Tudors, described as follows by Mr. Fisher?—

"When retainers were put down, and knights' service was no longer paid with armed men, their occupation (that is, of the *Liberi Homines*) was gone. They were unfit for the routine of husbandry, and unprovided with funds for working their farms. The policy of the nobles was changed. It was no longer their object to maintain small farmsteads, each supplying its quota of armed men to the retinue of the lord. Then commenced a struggle of the most fearful character. The nobles cleared their lands, pulled down the houses, and displaced the people. Vagrancy, on a most unparalleled scale, took place. . . . Men were no longer furnished to the State as payment of the knights' fee; they were cleared off the land to make room for sheep and oxen."

Mr. Fisher ignores altogether the fact that the clearances and enclosures which began in the reign of Henry the Seventh affected chiefly agricultural tenants,—copyholders, leaseholders, and small freeholders holding by socage tenure. Some small freeholders, also, holding by military tenure, may probably have disappeared; but the chief causes of the evictions and enclosures were of an entirely different character from the one which exclusively occupies Mr. Fisher's attention, and respecting which he seems to claim the credit of a discoverer. We recommend to him the study of Prof. Nasse's essay, 'Ueber die Mittelalterliche Feldgemeinschaft und die Einhegungen des Sechzehnten Jahrhunderts in England.'

NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

A Secret of the Sea. By the Author of 'In the Dead of Night.' 3 vols. (Bentley & Son.)
Phoebe of Plathwaite. By M. L. J. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)
Throstlethwaite. By Susan Morley. 3 vols. (H. S. King & Co.)
Munster Firesides; or, the Barrys of Beigh. By E. Hall. (Dublin, M'Glashan & Gill.)
MR. SPEIGHT'S 'Secret of the Sea' is honestly intended to make the reader's blood curdle

and flesh creep. If it does not succeed, the failure will arise from the callousness of the hardened novel-reader; not from any deficiency in horrors on the part of the author of the 'Dead of Night.' A terrible murder has been committed before the story opens. An innocent man has been condemned for it, and is immured as a criminal lunatic. The proofs of his innocence, and of the guilt of one Max Jacoby, or Van Duren, consisting of the jewellery stolen by the latter from his victim, are sunk off the coast of Wales, and constitute the Secret of the Sea. But it is with the fortunes of Ambrose Murray's daughter, who has been adopted by some friends, and brought up in ignorance of her unhappy parentage, that the plot is mainly concerned. Of them it will be sufficient to say that they are much influenced by the villainous machinations of an unscrupulous attorney, whose love-suit she has rejected. This person is instigated to revenge by a young lady of olive-coloured complexion, who herself aspires to the hand of the solicitor; and to effect that end, comports herself as a "snake in the grass," concealing her serpentine nature under the modest semblance of a governess. We have met several female intriguers of the pattern of Miss Deane in the pages of fiction, and cannot accord to her the merit of much originality. Still less successful are the farcical squire and his pompous wife, regarded as studies of character, though, like the governess, they are conventionally suited to the stage. The same remark applies to the office-boy, the gardener, and other minor personages. Of course, much of the story is devoted to the punishment of the villain Jacoby, whose last agonies are thoughtfully protracted by the care of his clerk, who locks him up in a strong-room and starves him to death, in revenge for the seduction of his daughter. Altogether it will be seen that there are strong situations in this gruesome story, which, however, owing to the commonplace nature of the characters, do not rise anywhere to the level of tragedy.

If the 'Secret of the Sea' is feebly forcible, 'Phoebe' is a fine example of the forcibly feeble. In every respect these novels are a contrast; in one an amazing number of incidents befall an equal number of lay figures, in the other a few virtuous persons, of distinct but infinitesimal shades of character, are engaged in doing nothing at all. Phoebe is a beautiful young Daleswoman of the Lakes, anxious, perhaps laudably, to rise in life: her lover, John Graeme, a farmer's son, is also prudently ambitious. So one becomes a steward of a superior sort, the other educates herself, and makes as near an approach to being a lady as she can. The result is a suitable and successful marriage. Were the attainment of this consummation the whole motive of the tale, it will be seen that, however excellent the moral, the element of romance would have been of the slightest importance. But in Mrs. Fothergill's devotion to her blind husband, though the quality is somewhat unduly insisted on by its discoverer, we have a topic more stirring to the imagination, and the surrender of the loyal young widow to Ralph Edwardes's passionate attachment is made gracefully and with proper diffidence. Whether Col. Fothergill's posthumous generosity to his wife quite accords with family

policy, may be a question; its heartiness is certainly most praiseworthy. The only other matters of importance are the endeavours of an excellent clergyman to educate his parishioners in the matter of church decoration, and the plans of an invalid squire for the improvement of his estate. Both these topics are treated of at great length and with much earnest deliberation. The spirit of the book is refined and harmless, but we own to having found it a trifle dull.

'Throstlethwaite' is a story with a pretty name, and its scene is also laid in the Lake district. It is of the quiet and domestic order, but does not lack the interest arising from an apt contrast of characters. Ruth Charteris is a lady, and her trial arises from her first engagement to a young man who fails in the higher qualities of a gentleman. The shiftless selfishness of Leonard Barrington, which culminates in positive dishonour, is keenly brought into relief by the frank simplicity and courage of the girl whose love is the best achievement of his life. Very slowly and painfully does she learn to rate her attractive suitor at his proper value, and as gradually does she recognize the worth of the manlier lover who finally supplants him. Mrs. L'Estrange, and the other personages, are well-drawn and natural; and the only fault we have to find is the unnecessary martyrdom of Frank, an engaging boy.

The 'Barrys of Beigh' is an unarticulated jumble of incidents, which have come together by a strange concurrence of particles, for which we can find no law. The characters have a sort of puppet life, and behave after the stiff and spasmodic manner of puppets,—chatter, quarrel, die in a hurry, or marry each other suddenly, three couples at once, at the end of the play; but the wire-puller dozes, and they halt at times. There is, however, an amount of tolerable writing in the 'Barrys of Beigh,' which leads us to think that the writer is capable of producing better work, if he will only cease to strain after wit, try to think out his subject clearly as a whole, and avoid the negligences of expression which too frequently involve his meaning. We should advise him to be, as we have advised thousands of novelists, more careful as to his grammar, and to refrain from the misappropriation of words. One character is said to make a "surmise" when he asks a question containing no supposition, to be "educating in Dublin," and to have "relapsed into sleep." It is said that Chance M'Carthy's engagements were "manifest, and daily embraced an area of ten square miles." "Subverted" is put where inverted is required by the connexion. At page 34 we are told that "we have been accustomed . . . to resign ourself." Harte Barry (who promises well at the outset, but fails to become interesting, a kind-hearted plodding young man, of a dreary habit of mind) proposes to his cousin Kate in these terms:—"You will be my wife, Kate? partner of a ruin, consort of a wreck"; and she, nothing daunted by a style of address which reminds us of Mr. Punch, when he pleads—

Love me, lady: my hair is grey;
When round comes pay-day I cannot pay;
My corns are awful, my prospects shady;
I want a comforter, love me, lady,

accepts these responsibilities on the spot. She had just discouraged another swain for his sake, and thus:—

"'You are not happy, Mr. Hevener?'
'You mock me.'
'You are not well, then?'
'I never will,' he exclaimed. . . .
'It is a lovely day,' she observed, changing the subject."

Robert Barry, an unpleasant character all through, is amusingly declared to be "isolated in the region of self," and "rather partial to the softness and whiteness of his hands." Chance M'Carthy, a man of thews and sinews, who disappoints us by refusing to emerge from perpetual boyhood, must possess attractions that we fail to perceive, for Lucy Setright loves him so well that on hearing him offer himself to Kate she coils herself on the floor "like some stricken dumb animal," and then goes to her room with "a scared expression upon her face and a heavy stupor upon her brain," to be, of course, followed next day by a "raging fever." We might be amazed at such an effect, had we not been told that the hope of his affection was a "loss that had sustained her in many a dark hour, and had been the delicious incentive on which her soul had fed . . . until its absence had been communicated by a shock." Mr. Setright, the villain of the book, is wicked all round, and he comes to a bad end in a manner most satisfactory to our feelings, and departs in fragments, being blown up by gunpowder. Our author is incomprehensible at times, as when he informs us that Kate Barry, with "consummate tact, set about playing sunshine to dry up Rose's limp spirits." Surely she was too kindly to wish to volatilize them altogether, and leave her friend spiritless! Then we are told of a man "who, under the hard kernel of a rough temper, . . . possessed a peculiar sweetness." Where?—we always thought that the sweetness of a nut lay in the kernel. Kate Barry often perplexes us: on one occasion we read that "she placed the saturated head upon her lap" (what is a saturated head?), "and . . . gazed into the eyes that stared her wildly for a minute, and then, having murmured the word 'Lucy,' lifted his hands to encircle her neck." Who murmured the word "Lucy"? Who lifted his hands? for it was not Kate! We are left to suppose that "the eyes that stared her" did it. There are other things in our author that no one can understand.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

- Away on the Moorlands: a Highland Tale.* By A. C. Chambers. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.)
'Especially Those,' a Story on the Prayer "for all Conditions of Men." By Brenda. (Shaw & Co.)
Tales of Nethercourt. By the Rev. H. C. Adams, M.A. (Routledge & Sons.)
Marty and the Mite-Boxes. By Jennie Harrison. (Shaw & Co.)
Rosamond Ferrars. By M. Bramston. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.)
Joachim's Spectacles: a Legend of Florential. By M. and C. Lee. (Griffith & Farran.)
Honour and Glory; or, Hard to Win: a Book for Boys. By Jeanie Hering. (Routledge & Sons.)
Miss Roberts's Fortune: a Story for Girls. By Sophy Winthrop. (Same publishers.)
The Old House on Briar Hill. By Isabella Grant Meredith. (Shaw & Co.)
Seven Birthdays; or, the Children of Fortune: a Fairy Chronicle. By Kathleen Knox. (Griffith & Farran.)
The Mysterious Island.—Dropped from the Clouds.

—*Abandoned.—The Secret of the Island.* By Jules Verne. Translated by W. H. G. Kingston. (Sampson Low & Co.)

The Survivors of the Chancellor. By Jules Verne. Translated by Ellen Frewer. (Same publishers.)
The Modern Playmate; a Book of Games, Sports, and Diversions for Boys of all Ages. Compiled and edited by the Rev. J. G. Wood, M.A. (Warne & Co.)

Minnie's Holiday; or, Country Cousins, and other Stories. By M. Betham-Edwards. (Marcus Ward & Co.)

Sunnyland Stories. By the Author of 'Aunt Mary's Bran Pie,' &c. (H. S. King & Co.)

Fables. Illustrated by Stories from Real Life. By Mrs. George Cupples. First Series. (Nelson & Sons.)

Little Rosy's Pets. By the Author of 'Little Rosy's Travels.' (Seeley, Jackson & Halliday.)

The Field of Ice. By Jules Verne. (Routledge & Sons.)

Seed to the Sower: Stories and Lessons for Sundays. By Crona Temple. (Hatchards.)

Evelyn Howard; or, Early Friendships. By Mrs. H. B. Paull. (Warne & Co.)

Myrtle and Cypress: a Tale of Chequered Life. By Annette Calthrop. (Marcus Ward & Co.)

'AWAY ON THE MOORLANDS' is a mixed story, in which birds, animals, and little boys and girls, together with some grown-up people, are all actors. It is an interesting story, although the birds and animals are dragged in by the head and tail—we can hardly say shoulders,—and are not very adroitly managed, still their little episodes are interesting when taken by themselves, though they interfere with the unity of the story. The moral inculcated, of kindness to animals, is excellent, and put in a manner which we venture to hope may take effect.

'Especially Those' is a slight story, well told. Mr. Adams has given us two more of his tales of schoolboy life, which he understands so well. The 'Chief of the School' is the one we like the best, though the 'Lost Rifle' will have its admirers.

'Marty and the Mite-Boxes' seems to be an American tale written after an English model. The fact of a good clergyman training a set of rough lads to form a choir, and to earn money, to save it up to help to build a church, is made the framework of a pretty and readable story—the power of song is exemplified in the transformation of idle, rough boys into intelligent and useful creatures.

'Rosamond Ferrars' is a well-written, healthy, and most interesting story, which we can cordially recommend. Grown-up persons will read it with as much pleasure as young ones.

'Joachim's Spectacles' is a good fairy morality, and well told, but it is much too long, and we would rather have heard more of the dear little living personages who were listening to the tale. Still this legend of Florential is attractive, and the young people who receive it as a gift may think themselves fortunate.

'Honour and Glory' is a pleasant story, and interesting both for boys and girls. It will be a good book to choose for a present.

'Miss Roberts's Fortune,' though written with a special view to the amusement and improvement of girls, will not be likely to do much good or harm; the interest is very mild, and it is not particularly well written. It is an American story; but it is inferior in merit to many of the American tales republished in England.

'The Old House on Briar Hill' is one of those novelettes which are objectionable for young persons still in the school-room. It is not a good story; the style is weak and flimsy; there is no great harm in it, but it is not likely to make its readers any wiser than they were before.

'Seven Birthdays' is a series of charming little legends, founded on the old rhyme of

Monday's child is fair of face,
Tuesday's child is full of grace, &c.,

and the legends tell how it fared with the seven little ones born each on its name-day. It is a very pretty book, and the stories are prettily illustrated;

but the fairy god-mother might have been called by a pleasanter name than "the fairy Wisacre."

'The Mysterious Island,' in three large volumes, beautifully printed, and almost as full of pictures as it is of print, is too large and too fine a gift to be bestowed all at once on any one young friend, and yet those who begin the first part and read how the five friends were dropped from a balloon on a mysterious uninhabited island, not mentioned in any book of geography, nor to be found on any atlas, will never rest, nor give those near them any rest, until they have read further, and learned about the wonderful inventions and discoveries made by the five friends, and the animals, and trees, and minerals they found and put to use, and how they went to another uninhabited island, and found there a man who has been "abandoned." All this will only excite their impatience to learn the "secret of the island." We suppose that there will be nothing else for it except that the "parents and guardians," who will be quite as much interested as the young people, will have to purchase these handsome volumes for themselves, and lend them to the young people as they may be found to deserve such a pleasure! The work is excellently translated by Mr. Kingston.

'The Survivors of the Chancellor' is one of those terrible tales of shipwrecks and disasters at sea that have a fearful fascination for all who read them. In the present story, Jules Verne has given the spirit of the many shipwrecks we have all of us read. The tale is well told, but it is too painful to follow. In the end rescue comes, a few are saved; but the descriptions of the sufferings are too horribly minute to be read for pleasure. There is a second story in the volume, one of Jules Verne's early efforts, before he had attained his present skill in narration. It is a tale of Indian vengeance, and the scene is laid in Lima; the style is crude. The interest turns upon the young Indian, Martin Paz, who loves a Spanish maiden, and is beloved by her; and they die together. It may be perceived that 'The Survivors of the Chancellor' and 'Martin Paz' are not very lively Christmas reading.

The present 'Modern Playmate' is a revised and enlarged edition of a similar work published some years ago. In its present form, it leaves nothing to be desired as a manual of sport, games, and employments for boys of all ages, even up to manhood.

Miss Betham-Edwards has given a fresh and pleasant story. The scene of 'Minnie's Holiday' is laid in Vienna, and the little Country Cousins come from Salzburg. It is told in a lively pleasant way, and it shows that girls in Austria and girls in England are much alike. 'Bob's Belongings' is an English story about brothers and sisters. 'The Runaway Girls in Green' is a tale of a German school; and the 'Dream Mama' is a pleasant English story of a little girl whose mamma is in Australia, and this is the story we like the best in the book.

Aunt Mary is always welcome, and these 'Sunnyland Stories' will keep up her name as the dear aunt who made the 'Eran Pie'; and we hope all her young friends will be both good and grateful.

Mrs. George Cupples has re-told Æsop's old and ever-new fables, and transformed the "moral," always tacked to the end of each, into the most delightful little stories that can be imagined. This little volume of fables will be a popular gift-book, and one hopes that, for once, the good counsel it contains may take effect; but perhaps this is being too sanguine.

Dear "little Rosy" continues to be as charming as when we first made her acquaintance; and 'Rosy's Pets' are as pleasant as their little mistress, especially that excellent cat "Flora." The book is illustrated by very clever and quaint black silhouettes.

'The Field of Ice' is a portion, complete in itself, of one of Jules Verne's best and most powerful novels. The interest that, at the present moment, is so strongly centred upon Arctic adventure makes this translation welcome and appropriate. The book is well translated and well got up. The

illustrations by Riou are beautiful, although the plates lack the delicate execution of those in the French edition.

'Seed to the Sower' is a book for a teacher to use in a Sunday class, as a portion of the regular instruction, rather than a Sunday book for young people to read for their own pleasure and amusement. The work is very didactic, and decidedly dry. It consists of short anecdotes, incidents, and fables to illustrate the Collects, and the Sundays throughout the year. It is well intentioned, and the teaching is unexceptionable, but such a book is a somewhat severe course of discipline for the youthful mind. It is inscribed by the writer to her godchild. We have seen the same topics treated in a more engaging manner.

'Evelyn Howard; or, Early Friendships' is a sort of book highly objectionable for young people. It is neither more nor less than a weak novel, with love intrigues, and flirtations, and treachery, and despairing love, and unrequited attachment, such as in common sense, and common humanity, ought to be kept from girls and boys till they are out of school, and have learned all the tasks which make up their burden of life in those days. The style in which 'Evelyn Howard' is written is as objectionable as the story itself, it is mawkish and feeble, with an absence of all that is crisp or bright. We would not present it to any friend or favourite of our own.

We may say the same thing of the last book on our list. 'Myrtle and Cypress, a Tale of Chequered Life' is not a particularly pleasant or successful tale. It turns on love, jealousy, disappointment, and a Catholic priest, who is a saint and in love with the heroine. It is not a story at all fitted for the young, as it is a novel in most respects like those in three volumes, but more feebly written, by way, we suppose, of making it more suitable for the young. We hold that tales of love and marriage and the romantic misunderstandings of lovers, ought to find no place in the library of young people. Sickly sentiment and feeble emotional religion are not the mental or moral nourishment on which healthy and growing young natures ought to be brought up.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

LORD GARVAGH'S book, *The Pilgrim of Scandinavia* (Sampson Low & Co.), is the mildest attempt to attain literary distinction that we remember ever to have seen. "The present writer," as Lord Garvagh designates himself throughout, is a pattern of youthful and unruffled happiness. Everybody is kind to him, and he to everybody. He is always smiling. He smiles, not only, as is natural enough, while partaking of the friendly hospitality, which awaited him in every cottage in Iceland and Norway; but in a rickety fishing smack of some twenty tons burden, in a howling gale in the midst of the North Atlantic, he is so happy that, when he sees a "stormy petrel" he "laughs at it" on one occasion, and "tries to laugh at another" on a second. An insight into his turn of mind is afforded by an incident that occurred on Mount Hecla. In the midst of the descent made by him and his company of Icelanders to their horses, somewhat too wild and rapid for the "present writer's" tranquillity, he had really time to "feel sadly (by the way these fellows went on) the force of that old-established saying, standard proverb, and wise maxim, that 'an old man in love is like Mount Hecla: the summit is covered with snow, while the inside is full of flame'!" One more illustration of the "present writer's" manner, and we have done with his book. On coming out of the crater at the top, just before this descent was effected, he tells us how he and his companions each one "took part in that ode of Horace which has been set to music by a man named Flemming, and commences:—

Integer vitæ scelerisque purus,
Sive per Syrtis iter æstuosus
Sive facturus per inhospitalem
Caucasum vel quæ loca fabulosus
Lambit Hydaspes.

which the connexion between the Caucasus and Iceland, before alluded to"—namely, that out of Iceland the Icelandic head-dress is worn only in Circassia—"might tempt one to change into *Hyperborean latitudes* if the ode were English, or into *Hyperboreas montes* if it were another metre, 'an imaginary range of mountains in the N. of the earth, afterwards applied by geographers to various chains, as, for example, the Caucasus'"—a reflection too deep for us, we confess, to master. The italics are not ours.

MR. DAVID KER'S *Wild Horseman of the Pampas* (H. S. King & Co.) is an exciting story of the experiences of an English sailor lad in South America. We hardly think that it can be accepted as "an attempt to describe the every-day life of a comparatively unknown region"; but it is full of stirring incidents, of hairbreadth escapes and bold adventures, and terminates, as every boy's book should, in the marriage of the hero.

M. LOUIS LEGER has just brought out in Paris, under the title of *Chrestomathie Russe* (E. Leroux), a corrected edition of a useful little work lately published at Prague by C. Dnieprovsky. Containing extracts from eleven prose writers and six poets, it will prove of service in supplying a want often felt by students of Russian, that of a cheap and easily procurable reading-book.

We have on our table *The Fourth Book of Virgil's Æneid, with a Vocabulary*, by J. T. White, D.D. (Longmans).—*The First and Second Books of Eutropius, with a Vocabulary*, by J. T. White, D.D. (Longmans).—*Easy Lessons in German*, by W. H. and E. K. Woodbury (Trübner).—*The County Courts Act, 1875*, by C. M. Wetherfield (Lockwood).—*Outlines of the World's History*, by W. Swinton (Trübner).—*American States University*, by A. T. Brook (Trübner).—*Ramble of the Mind through Southern Buckinghamshire*, by C. Wethered (Stroud, Clark).—*Low-Life Deeps*, by J. Greenwood (Chatto & Windus).—*Time and Time-Tellers*, by J. W. Benson (Hardwicke).—*Cassell's Family Magazine* (Cassell).—*The Book for Every Day*, edited by J. Mason (Nimmo).—*Great Historical Mutinies*, by D. Herbert, M.A. (Nimmo).—*Famous Historical Scenes*, by A. R. H. Moncrieff (Nimmo).—*Aunt Jo's Scrap Bag*, by L. M. Alcott (Low).—*The Mind of Shakespeare*, by Rev. A. A. Morgan, M.A. (Routledge).—*Toussaint Louverture*, by A. De Lamartine, edited with English Notes by Prof. C. Cassal, LL.D. (Longmans).—*Remains of the Late Rev. A. W. Haddon, B.D.*, edited by A. P. Forbes, D.C.L. (Parker).—*Religion and Science*, by S. T. Gibson, B.D. (Longmans).—*Hindu Thought*, by W. A. Leonard (Simpkin).—*The Fishermen of Galilee*, by E. Palmer, (Nimmo).—and *Ausführliche Erläuterung des allgemeinen Theiles der Germania des Tacitus*, by D. Anton Baumstark (Leipzig, Weigel). Among New Editions we have *Commentaries on the Law of Nations*, by W. O. Manning, revised by S. Amos, M.A. (Sweet).—*Solid Geometry*, by P. Frost, M.A., Vol. I. (Macmillan).—*The Origin of the Stars*, by J. Ennis, A.M. (Trübner).—*The Life and Times of Louisa, Queen of Prussia*, by E. H. Hudson, 2 vols. (Hatchards).—*The Two Children of St. Domingo* (Low).—and *The Pearl of Orr's Island*, by Mrs. H. B. Stowe (Low).

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Theology.

- Ashley's (J. M.) *Promptuary for Preachers*, Advent to Ascension Day, 8vo. 12/6 cl.
Augustine's Works, Vol. 13, 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Burrows's (Rev. H. W.) *The Eve of Ordination*, 12mo. 1/6 cl.
Candlish's (R. S.) *Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians*, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Clerke's (Mrs.) *Latter Days of Judah*, 12mo. 3/6 cl.
Credentials of Christianity, with Preface by Earl of Harrowby, cr. 8vo. 5/6 cl.
Dale's (R. W.) *The Atonement*, cheap edition, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.
Delitzsch's (F.) *Biblical Commentary on Proverbs of Solomon*, Vol. 2, 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Expositor (The), edited by Rev. S. Cox, Vol. 2, 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Gibson's (S. T.) *Religion and Science*, 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Graver Thoughts of a Country Parson, 3rd series, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
Harrison's (J.) *Oxford Theology*, 12mo. 2/6 cl.
Jackson's (W.) *Doctrine of Rebirth*, 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Keeble's (J.) *Sermons for Christian Year, Christmas, and Epiphany*, 8vo. 6/6 cl.
Meyer's (H. A. W.) *Commentary on St. John*, Vol. 2, 8vo. 10/6 cl.; *Philippians and Colossians*, 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Oehler's (G. F.) *Theology of the Old Testament*, Vol. 2, 10/6 cl.

Oort and Hooykaas's Bible for Young People, Vol. 2, 5/6 cl.
 Pearse's (M. G.) Sermons for Children, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl.
 Pope's (W. B.) Compendium of Christian Theology, 8vo. 15/6 cl.
 Reed's (Mrs. H. V.) The Bible Triumphant, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl. 1p.
 Van Oosterzee's (J. J.) Moses, Twelve Lectures, 8vo. 6/6 cl.

Law.

Bund's (J. W. W.) Law of Compensation for Unexhausted
 Agricultural Improvements, 12mo. 5/6 cl.

Fine Art.

Art-Journal, Vol. 1875, 4to. 31/6 cl.
 Duraven's (Earl) Notes on Irish Architecture, Vol. 1, fol. 84/
 Packer's (J. H.) Archaeology of Rome, Supplement to Vol. 1,
 8vo. 10/6 cl.
 Thackeray's (W. M.) The Orphan of Pimlico, royal 4to. 21/6 cl.
 Vanity Fair Album, Vol. 7, folio, 63/6 cl.

Poetry.

Catullus's Poems, trans. by T. Martin, 2nd ed. cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
 Hymns and Poems for Very Little Children, imp. 16mo. 2/6 cl.
 Scott's (Sir W.) Poetical Works, Handy Vol. Edition, 7 vols.
 18mo. 12/6 in cloth box.
 Worsley's (P. S.) Poems and Translations, 2nd ed. cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.

History.

Doran's (Dr.) "Mann" and Manners at the Court of Florence,
 1740-1780, 2 vols. 8vo. 30/
 Frere's (E.) Typical Chronology, 8vo. 2/6 cl.
 Hullah's (J.) History of Modern Music, 2nd edit. 8vo. 8/6 cl.
 Paston Letters, new edit., edited by J. Gairdner, Vol. 3, 7/6 cl.
 Ramsay's (C. T.) Drumlanrig Castle, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.
 Watts (Isaac), His Life and Writings, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.

Geography.

Bellew's (H. W.) Kashmir and Kashgar, 8vo. 16/6 cl.
 Indian Alps, and How We Crossed Them, by a Lady Pioneer,
 royal 8vo. 42/6 cl.

Philology.

Ereuna, or an Investigation of the Etymons of Words and
 Names, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.

Science.

Calvert's (Dr. F. C.) Dyeing and Calico Printing, edited by J.
 Stenhouse and C. E. Groves, 8vo. 21/6 cl.
 Tanner's (T. H.) Index of Diseases, 2nd edit. 12mo. 10/6 cl.

General Literature.

An Apprentice, or a Glimpse of the Life of James Lyston, 1/6
 Animal World, Vol. 1875, folio. 2/6 and.
 Argonaut (The), ed. by G. Gladstone, Vol. 2, 8vo. 6/6 cl.
 Beeton's Manners of Polite Society, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Cinderella, a New Version of an Old Story, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
 Cornhill Magazine, Vol. 32, 8vo. 7/6 cl.
 Darvey's (S.) Darwin, Carlyle, and Dickens, with other Essays,
 cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Day of Rest, Vol. 1875, folio 7/6 cl.
 Dyer's (Rev. T. F. T.) British Popular Customs, cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl.
 Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 3, 4to. 20/6 cl.
 From Out of the Deep, by an Old Cornish Boy, 12mo. 5/6 cl.
 Frost's (T.) Lives of the Conjurors, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.
 Golden Childhood, 4to. 2/6 cl.
 Hardy's (T.) Under the Greenwood Tree, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.
 Hutchinson's (E.) The Brandens, cr. 8vo. 5/6 cl.
 James's (S. B.) Tastes and Habits, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
 Life and Adventures of a Cheap Jack, ed. by C. Hindley, 6/6 cl.
 Loftie's (W. J.) In and Out of London, 12mo. 2/6 cl.
 McCulloch's Dictionary of Commerce, new edit. with Supple-
 ment, 8vo. 63/6 cl.
 Oliphant's (Mrs.) Story of Valentine, and his Brother, chp. ed. 5/
 Only Me: an Autobiography, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl.
 Pemberton's (T. E.) Dickens's London, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.
 Phyllis Pengelly, 18mo. 1/6 cl.
 Polko's (E.) Musical Tales, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
 Potter's (F. S.) Out of Door Friends, 18mo. 1/6 cl.
 Shedlock's (E. L.) Trip to Music Land, 4to. 10/6 cl.
 Spon's Engineer's and Contractor's Illustrated Book of Prices of
 Machines, &c., 1876, 4to. 7/6 cl.
 Turner's (G. W.) Heart Studies of Home Life, 4to. 15/6 cl.
 Wait's (E. C.) One for Another, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
 Willoughby's (F.) Fairy Guardians, cr. 8vo. 5/6 cl.
 Winter Story (A), by the Author of 'The Rose Garden,' 7/6

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ORIENTALISTS.

THE Number number of the *Russische Revue* gives some account of the proceedings of the Organizing Committee of the next Oriental Congress, which is to commence its sittings on the 1st (O.S., our 13th) of next September at St. Petersburg. The members of the committee are Profs. Grigorief, Patkanof, and Chwolson, and Mr. A. Kuhn, Prof. Grigorief being the president. The Congress, it is stated, will pay special attention to Asiatic Russia, dividing it into four districts, viz., 1, Siberia; 2, Central Asia, including the independent khanates of West Turkestan; 3, the Caucasus; 4, Transcaucasia; the rest of the East will be arranged in the following groups: 5, East Turkestan, Mongolia, China, and Japan; 6, India, Persia, and the islands of the Indo-Chinese Archipelago; 7, Turkey and Arabia. Each of the seven sections devoted to these subjects will discuss the geographical, historical, philological, and literary questions which will come before it. But there will also be two special sections: the one, No. 8, devoted to the Archaeology and Numismatics, and the other, No. 9, to the Religions and Philosophies of the East. Not only professed Orientalists are invited to attend the Congress, but also all persons who are interested in Oriental questions, especially travellers and explorers as well as official residents in Asia; in

fact, every one who can in any way forward the ends of the Congress.

One of the objects proposed by the Committee is to draw up an account of what has already been done in Russia with regard to the matters which the Congress will discuss. Considering that no more acceptable present can be offered by the Orientalists of that country to their western colleagues and guests than a summary of Russian research in Asia, the committee propose to print, before the opening of the Congress, a historico-bibliographical account of what Russian scholars and travellers have written about the East. A meeting was held in May, which was attended by about forty Oriental authorities, most of whom promised to co-operate with the committee in the task of preparing such a report. Siberia will be represented by MM. K. Staritsky, M. Venyukof, and P. von Helmersen; Central Asia, by Baron A. von Kaulbars and Prof. Grigorief; Transcaucasia, by Prof. Patkanof, who will devote himself to Armenia, and by A. Zagareli, who will take Georgia as his subject. The cartography and ethnography of Mongolia will be treated by P. von Helmersen. Baron F. von Osten-Sacken will give an account of Russian geographical and ethnographical researches concerning China; and I. Sakharof of those of a linguistic and historico-literary nature. Prof. Lerch will deal with Russian Iranian studies, P. Savaitof with Russian travels to Palestine and the neighbouring lands, and Baron V. von Rosen with Russian collections of Oriental MSS., &c.

The Committee have also taken steps towards organizing an exhibition of such Oriental objects as may enlist the interest and forward the studies of the members of the Congress. By it will be specially illustrated the archaeology, palaeography, ethnography, and literature of the East. The public collections in outlying districts will be laid under contribution for this purpose, especially those in Siberia, Turkestan, and the Caucasus. But an urgent appeal is made also to private collectors, whether they are travellers, or servants of the State who have resided in the East, or untravelled Russians who have acquired specimens of the Oriental treasures which have so often been discovered in Russia, and which are constantly being brought to light by the plough or the spade of the railway excavator. To collectors of the latter class, it is gently hinted that they may, by contributing, not only confer a benefit upon science, but also turn an honest penny. What the Committee chiefly desire are (1) Oriental inscriptions on stone or metal; (2) Oriental MSS.; (3) old maps of Asiatic countries; (4) portraits, landscapes, &c., collected by travellers in Asia; (5) clothes, weapons, domestic utensils, &c., now used by Orientals; and (6) memorials of the past life, public and private, of Eastern peoples, whether found in Russia or brought thither by Russian travellers in the East;—everything, in fact, which Russia can contribute towards the elucidation of Eastern questions. The English corresponding member of the Committee, we may mention, is Prof. R. K. Douglas, of the British Museum.

FIFTH CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF "MESSER GIOVANNI BOCCACCIO."

In the *Athenæum* of September 12, 1874 (No. 2446), a notice appeared of the intention of the Commune of Certaldo to hold, towards the close of 1875, a solemn commemoration in honour of their illustrious countryman, Giovanni Boccaccio, the prince of Italian writers in prose.

I have just received an official notification of the proposed ceremony, and, as an honorary member of the Commission appointed to carry out the purpose, with a pressing invitation to be present at Certaldo on the occasion, the programme of what is there to take place, a translation of which I enclose:—

"Tuesday, December 21, 1875.

"At half-past nine, A.M.—Reunion of the members of the Commission and all the invited guests in the Palace of the Commune.

"At ten.—A visit in procession, accompanied by the local band, to the house of Boccaccio in the upper town, and the inauguration of the Epigraph, sculptured in marble, in memory of the event, inserted in the front wall of the house.

"At half-past eleven.—The first stone of the monument to Giovanni Boccaccio will be laid in the centre of the Piazza Solferino in Certaldo, in the presence of the Commission and the invited guests.

"At one o'clock, P.M.—A general meeting of all the members, honorary and effective, in the grand hall of the Palace of the Commune, for the reading and communication of the various writings and publications in reference to the occasion.

"At three o'clock.—The local Commission will entertain at dinner all who have been invited to take part in the commemoration."

This programme is a very modest one, and the entertainment to be given is styled *un modesto pranzo*; but we all know the warm-hearted character of the Italians, and if the dinner is a modest one compared with Mansion House banquets, it will at least be accompanied with such effusions of patriotic sentiments and brotherly kindness as will more than compensate for the absence of turtle soup or any other delicacy.

Certaldo is rather too far, however, at this severe season, to go for a dinner, or even for assisting at laying the first stone of the Boccaccio monument, especially as the uncovering of this monument in 1877 will be much more of a national festival, to which the present commemoration is preliminary.

H. C. BARLOW.

UM EL JEMAL—THE BETH GAMUL OF JEREMIAH?

It has been my good fortune recently to visit the ruins of this little-known but very interesting city. Burckhardt made three attempts from as many different points to reach this place, all of which were unsuccessful. Buckingham still later was also unable to reach it. And even so recent a traveller as Wetzstein was obliged to turn back without seeing it, after he had made every preparation and had proceeded half-an-hour or more from Bozrah on his way thither. Dr. Porter says, "the only European who ever succeeded in reaching it is Cyril C. Graham." But the place has been visited, probably since the statement just quoted was written, by Mr. Waddington, who, however, has not described it with any detail. Besides the two gentlemen just named, I am not aware that the place has been visited by any other Europeans previous to the arrival there of our own party. Out of the path of travellers, and even of adventurous explorers, it is not strange that books on Palestine and Bible dictionaries have very little to say about it. In Jer. xlviii. 21-25, where it is said that "judgment is come upon the plain country," a list of eleven cities is given, and among them are mentioned "Beth Gamul, Beth Meon, Kerieth, and Bozrah." "Judgment is come," it is said, "upon all the cities of the land of Moab, far or near." The phrase "far or near" may prove a significant hint towards determining the question whether or not this site corresponds with the Beth Gamul of Jeremiah. The sites and ruins of Kerieth and Bozrah, which places I have also recently visited, are supposed, by some, to be well known; and it is argued, with good reason, that Beth Gamul must be in the same region. And Um el Jemal, or "Mother of the Camel," may, it is thought, represent the Hebrew Beth Gamul, or "House of the Camel."

From the castle at Salchad, and some say from that at Bozrah also, one can see a pile of ruins far away to the south-west, a dark mass resting upon the treeless plain. They lie about sixteen miles from Bozrah. They are at present uninhabited, there being no water there that we could find, although there is a large reservoir in the centre of the town, and I counted as many as four smaller ones in different parts of the city. There is evidence that the place contains also large cisterns, one such at least I saw, in which may be water. These it would be interesting to examine. The

roof of the one that I looked into was supported by five Roman arches.

We left our camp on Monday morning, Sept. 27, at five o'clock, and proceeded to the castle in Bozrah; for the officer in command, Ibrahim Effendi, proposed, as he had never visited the place, and was very much interested in antiquities, to accompany us with some soldiers. Fortunately the morning, and the whole day, as it proved, were quite cool, so that our ten hours and forty minutes in the saddle were less tedious than they might otherwise have been. We were in all twenty men, well mounted, and well armed. Besides the animals we rode, we had three extra ones for photographic apparatus, water, and other baggage. About two miles outside of Bozrah we came upon a large encampment of Bedouin of over one hundred long black tents; and, judging by the deafening howl, there were three or four dogs to every tent. There were several hundred camels scattered about in groups; and there was evidently excitement of some kind, for men were shouting and running in all directions. Some of them ran up to our soldiers, and told of a heavy robbery that had been committed during the night, and of the great loss they had suffered in cattle and camels. Our soldiers gave chase in the direction indicated by these men; and it was a fine sight to see them, with such of the Bedouin as were mounted, dashing over the plain in their efforts to discover the robbers. These, however, had done their work too near morning, or else had taken more than they could manage, and had fled, leaving the camels, or most of them, to return at leisure to their masters. I counted in a single string one hundred and fifty camels, thus making their way back. During the next hour or two we saw as many as half-a-dozen groups of camels, at different places on the plain, that had passed through the experience of being stolen the night previous. Three miles south of Bozrah we struck the perpetual desert, the region of desolation. Not that the soil is barren, but in all this wide and naturally fertile district no man dare plough, or plant, or build. Here is land as level as any prairie, and as rich as any in the world, with stones enough upon it to serve for building purposes, lying idle and useless. One can easily picture it cut up into hundreds of fine farms, and covered with dwellings and orchards and gardens, and all the marks of civilized and skilful husbandry. Yet this desert shows signs of former cultivation, for the stones in many parts have at some time been gathered into long rows, evidently to serve as boundaries for fields. The plain is covered with a small shrub which resembles the sage bush. Then the crocus appeared in many places; and the contrast between the barren burnt surface of the plain and these beautiful flowers was very striking. On the way we passed several ruins, the names of which we could not learn; and the same was true of our return, as we came most of the way by a different route. There are scores of these ruined towns scattered about this plain awaiting the careful explorer. Far in the north-east the fortress, Al Salchad, loomed up a magnificent object on the horizon, commanding a view of all this wide plain to the north, east, south, and west. I noticed that the common barnswallows were very abundant; and we also saw during the day ten or more gazelles, to some of which our men gave chase, but without success.

We reached Um el Jemal after a ride of about five hours. The ruins do not abound in columns and temples like those of Kunawat or Jerash, still they are imposing, and make a peculiar impression upon one because they stand alone in the desert. They are remarkable, in the first place, from the fact that they present only two prominent styles of architecture, namely, Roman and Christian, and not half-a-dozen as is so often the case in other places. They are remarkable again because they afford a good example of an *unwalled* town. Indeed, in this respect they are very instructive. The dwellings and buildings were not huddled together. Then there has been no building and rebuilding on the tops of former buildings, accord-

ing to later oriental style. The open spaces about the houses were large, and the streets were broad. At least two avenues ran through the city from north to south, one of which was one hundred feet wide, and the other nearly one hundred and fifty feet. Nothing appears crowded. Everywhere there is a sense of roominess. It must have been a city noted for broad streets, spacious avenues, large courts, fine gardens, promenades, and the like. Consequently it would be a cool city, and no doubt delightful as a place of residence. Then, again, the houses, which were built of stone, are not only the finest, but the best preserved of any that I have seen in the Hauran, or in all the country east of the Jordan. They were built on a generous scale. Some of them were three and even four stories high. I noticed that eleven and twelve feet was a common height for the ceiling on the first floor, and ten feet on the second, and in two or more cases the height of the ceiling on the third floor was also ten feet. The doors of the rooms were, as a rule, seven and a half and eight feet high in the second story as well as the first. The rooms were not small but spacious, that is, spacious for private houses. A number of those that I measured were ten feet by twenty-five, or twelve feet by twenty-four. There were of course both larger and smaller rooms than these. A common style of building seems to have been a group of houses with a large open space around the outside, and a large open court on the inside. These courts were fifty feet by seventy-five, and sometimes much larger. Stone stairs led up on the outside of the houses facing the court to the second and third stories. Many of these are in as good condition as if they had been built but one year ago. There are no traces of the Saracens here. Nor, on the other hand, are there any decided marks of great antiquity. In the large reservoir before mentioned there are some bevelled stones. It is the fullest bevel. Very many of the stones of which the houses were built were simply split, and not faced at all; yet it should be observed that the splitting was remarkably regular. It was evidently at one time, and, I should judge, for a long time, a prominent Christian city. I found remains of what I consider to have been three Christian churches. Further examination might develop more. One of these, at least, had had a portico, and columns were lying about the front of it. In no other city east of the Jordan that I have visited do so many crosses appear on the lintels of the doors of private houses as here. Then, again, the inscriptions are by no means the least important fact connected with these ruins. I can, however, only allude to this fact at present. Mr. Waddington, whom I have already mentioned, has published several Greek and Latin inscriptions which were found here, and during my short stay I found seven inscriptions which he has not given. Aramaic inscriptions also exist here. Without deciding whether or not this is the Beth Gamul of the Bible, it is certainly a rich field for research.

I am sorry to state that the Arabs are every year carrying off the stones of this city to other places. As many as six men were at work while we were there, throwing down the walls and getting the long roof-stones, which were to be carried away on camels. Just before we reached the place we met thirty or forty camels that had started with a load of stone taken from these ruins. It is easy to see how important inscriptions may be carted off, and thus valuable historical material for ever lost. It was on account of this plundering which I saw going on that I regretted so deeply I could not remain and complete a thorough archaeological examination of the ruins at once. We took two photographs of the city, and made some measurements, the details of which would probably not be of general interest. In regard to this place being identical with the Beth Gamul of Jeremiah, while I do not care to discuss the question here, I may say in a word that I see no special objection to its having been the same. The objection offered by some scholars that it is too far north, can, I think, easily be removed. The place appears to have been deserted for cen-

turies. I should judge that the desertion was sudden and complete. There are no traces of there having been any lingering, deteriorating remnant of people, nor of any wretched subsequent inhabitants to mutilate it, as is usually the case in these large ruined cities. I noticed an interesting fact with regard to the pieces of pottery with which the surface of the ground here, as in all these ruined towns, is covered. In most cases one sees only the red pottery, but in Um el Jemal the black was the prevailing kind, and the red decidedly the exception. There are but few places in Syria where the black pottery is made. In the first century, according to the Talmud, the black kind was considered superior to the red, and brought a much higher price in the markets; and what is also interesting in this connexion, a certain village in Galilee had a monopoly of its manufacture.

On our way home, as we had no guide and paths do not exist, we took the wrong direction, and when we had ridden five hours we did not find our Bozrah. We ascended a slight elevation, which commanded a view of a wide region. We had a choice of seven ruined cities which were in sight from where we stood; but as night was rapidly approaching, even our Effendi could not tell which Bozrah was. We made a guess, which proved to be a lucky one, and after one hour and a half hard riding in the dark we reached our camp in safety.

SELAH MERRIL.

SALE.

MESSES. SOTHEY, WILKINSON & HODGE sold, for pounds, on Monday in last week and two following days, the well-known cabinet of Scottish coins formed by Mr. James Wingate, F.S.A. Scot., the author of 'Wingate's Illustrations of the Coinage of Scotland.' The collection contained the whole of the Scotch series from the "Bergne" cabinet, as well as many examples from the Lindsay, Foster, Christmas, Hay, and Newton collections. Among the most important pieces, we may mention a penny of Prince Henry of Northumberland, struck at Carlisle, in the reign of David the First, 26,—Inverness penny of Alexander the Third, with an unusual legend, 21,—a farthing of the same reign, 20,—a farthing of Robert Bruce, 42,—a halfpenny of David the Second, 35,—a groat and half-groat of Robert the Second, Dundee Mint, 30,—a halfpenny of Robert the Third, from the Perth Mint, 26,—a rare half St. Andrew, 50,—another, somewhat different, 31,—a St. Andrew of James the First, 28,—a half ditto, 26,—a groat of James the Second, from the Stirling Mint, 21,—a St. Andrew, 30,—a half ditto, 51,—a groat, with clothed bust of James the Third, fifth coinage, 20,—another of James the Fourth, 30,—a unicorn of the same reign, with the numeral iv. after the king's name, and the legends in Roman characters, 47,—a two-thirds St. Andrew, 49,—a one-third rider, 26,—a two-thirds bonnet piece of James the Fifth, struck in 1540, 18,—a one-third ditto, same date, 41. The following are of Queen Mary: a half-testoon, without date, 15,—a testoon, with crowned bust to right, 1553, 61,—a half-testoon, with bust to left, 25,—a unique lion, struck in 1553, with the Scottish arms crowned between two cinquefoils, 105,—a ryal, with bust to left, 14,—a half-ryal, 24. James the Sixth, silver: a thistle dollar, 1578, 21,—a half thistle dollar, 1581, 36,—a quarter thistle dollar, 36,—a forty-shilling piece, 1582, three-quarter bust in armour, with sword, 85; gold: a twenty-pound piece, 1574, 35,—a noble, with the bare head to left, 1580, 30,—a lion, 1584, 30,—a two-thirds lion, 1587, 201,—a one-third lion, 1584, 205,—a hat piece, 1592, 35,—a unit, after the Accession, 15,—a half-unit, 30,—a quarter-unit, 12. The collection realized 3,263*l.* 14*s.*

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S VISIT TO INDIA.

WE are in receipt of a mass of communications from India this week, but our readers can hardly expect us to lay before them matter running over

a score of columns or so. What we do say we shall have to say briefly.

Accounts reach us of the great Bombay Parsee Prayer Meeting, held on the 6th of November, at their Wadia fire-temple. A Correspondent sends us the following:—"This fire-temple, on the day that I have referred to, was thronged by Parsees. All the Parsees of Bombay seemed to have turned out to pray for the Prince of Wales. There were literally thousands of them." The festivities began at ten o'clock in the morning, and the ceremonial immediately followed. Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Ardrasir Hormusjee Wadia, Hormusjee and Jamsetjee Bomonjee Wadia, Dinshaw and Nusserwanjee Manockjee Petit, Nanabhoj Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, &c., were present, when the high priest, Dustoor Peshotunjee Byramjee Sanjana, gave an address to the congregation, and recited a prayer especially composed by him to suit the occasion. During the course of address, the high priest referred to the meeting of the Parsees held four years ago in the same fire-temple, when, with one united voice, they sent up their prayers that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the heir to the Empire of India, who had been seriously ill, might be restored to health and strength. In that prayer there was this remarkable passage:—"O God of Mercy. Bright as the Light. Warm as Thy Typical Emblem. (Sacred Fire.) Teacher of our Teacher. (Zoroaster.) Hear us. All the available medical gentlemen have given up hopes of recovery of that foreign Prince; but we still entertain hopes of his recovery in Thee, the all-powerful Physician."

The high priest proceeded, in a voice that faltered with emotion, to speak as follows:—"Our prayer and humble supplication to the Throne of Mercy was heard; our Prince began to improve in health and strength; and we again assembled in this same sacred place to offer up thanksgivings to the All-Merciful Creator, to bend our knees and express our gratitude for vouchsafing to listen to our prayer, and restoring our Prince to health and strength. But the Almighty has been to us more gracious still. If we had, some years ago, wished to be blessed with a look at our Prince in our own country, the idea would have been deemed chimerical. But now the Great Giver of all Good has further vouchsafed to gratify such a wish also. We shall now see with our own eyes the auspicious countenance of our future Emperor; we shall be blessed with the light of his presence two days hence. That His Royal Highness's travels may prove prosperous to the end; that he may return to his own land with the same cheerfulness, and attended by the same happy auspices with which he set out; that in gladness and good health he may rejoin his Royal mother and meet again with smiles the noble Princess and his beloved children, is the heart-felt prayer of us all; and I invite you all to join with me in a short prayer, which I have prepared in order to give expression to our above-mentioned wishes."

There was a short pause. The congregation, with one simultaneous movement, clasped hands in prayer. Slowly and solemnly rang out the Parsee high priest's prayer, after that, in due form, the holiest names of God had been, for fully seven minutes, successively invoked:—"Eternal God, Thou avertest every unlooked-for calamity from us, and preventest every coming catastrophe, and savest us from the grasp of destruction. We pray thee, O thou King of Kings, to save, to preserve the son of our Gracious Queen, our future Emperor the Prince of Wales. Thou Essence of Purity, we pray Thee with bended knees to bless him with choicest happiness; we beg of Thee to bless him with cheerfulness; and our earnest prayer to Thee, O God, is that he may travel through this land of Ind according to the wish of his heart, and may, in the enjoyment of health and happiness, return to England. Grant, Thou Eternal and Everlasting God, this prayer of our hearts, and keep the heart of Queen Victoria cheerful to the end. Grant that her star may shine resplendent; prosperous be her reign over this land, and over the four continents of the world. And grant

that, with our Queen, her children may live in health, happiness, and peace! Amen." No Christian could decline to cry "Amen" to such a stately prayer.

The Mussulmans were, however, not behind their hated rivals. For once, the son of Islam and the Fire-worshipper—the Iconoclast and the man whom the sword of the Prophet drove from the land of his heritage, to make Bombay, instead of some Persian port, his new Tyre—joined together in worship. It has appeared to us that it may, with some truth unfortunately, be said that, as a whole, the Mohammedan population of Bombay was, on the occasion of the Prince's visit, overlooked—that is, comparatively speaking. It is, therefore, with a great deal of pleasure that we learn from a Correspondent, an officer of our army quartered in Bombay, that he personally attended a service in a mosque in the Mussulman quarter, and found that the Prince of Wales was the subject of their prayers to Allah. Verses of the Koran were read at intervals—somewhat after the fashion in which sentences from the Bible are read during offertory-time in our churches—with deliberate pauses between. All of these extracts from the Mussulman Scriptures had direct reference to the advent of the Prince; and the Prophet was solemnly invoked to bless and preserve—the foreign Infidel!

The Hindoos had also their services. They, as well as the Jains, look upon the visit to the Elephanta Caves, with gratification. There are, perhaps, at this present moment, a larger number of professed or secret Jains in Bombay than in any other part of our Indian Empire. Some of the most enlightened of them concerning the antiquities of their own sect have very strange views indeed as to many of the religious matters that concern them most nearly. It is hardly to be wondered at that, speaking of the visit of the Prince of Wales to Elephanta, the able "Special Correspondent" of a London daily newspaper described Siva as a Buddhistic Deity. Modern Jains, with their half-Buddhism and half-Brahminism, frequently hold vague views about the Supreme Object of Worship. It is a queer thing to say, and we only wish that it were as preposterous in reality as it may appear in print,—but do our readers know (we have not seen a line in reference to the matter yet in any newspaper) that it is not at all unlikely that the Prince's visit to India will be made the occasion for his solemn deification by some misty-minded Jain, some sleepy Buddhist of Ceylon, or some red-hot Telugu Brahmin? The grotesque cartoon which appeared a short time ago in a weekly comic paper, of the Prince as a Hindu Idol, will not, let it be hoped, become a reality. It will not be a pleasant termination to the royal visit to have little greasy and ochred idols stuck up under trees, in bat-haunted caves, and at every village well, and there duly worshipped as a *swami* or god—those idols being popularly called, as the Prince has already been, "Lord Prinsih Wailsh." Glorification is all very well, but deification is another matter, and some good people will be sorely scandalized at this piece of sensational information from India.

The Indian papers contain numbers of translations of hymns, composed by Mahrattis and Gujaratis authors, in the Prince's honour during his visit to Bombay. These may be consulted by our readers. They are not of striking beauty or merit of any kind, but are eminently Oriental in the tone of feeling expressed, and in the expression itself. We may quote a line or two from a long Gujarati Ode, sung before the Prince; it is the opening stanza,—it may be rhyme,—the rest of the translation is neither rhyme nor reason:—

All hail to thee! Most noble Prince, this day
To thee in song we would our homage pay;
Though far away thy mother's splendour streams,
These distant realms are gladdened by the beams
When thou, her empire's heir, our Prince art found
Here, in our midst, upon the Indian ground,
While all the nation rises up to greet
Our royal guest; but for a welcome meet
What can we render, but our loyal love,
And hope that all thy life may noble prove!

The English papers of Bombay have, however, not quoted many still more strange and extravagant poems. One, published in a native pamphlet, begins—translated freely—thus:—

Three Tufts of Feathers. These are emblematic of three gods.
The Star-fish points three fingers forwards as it swims.
The Pomegranate has three tap-roots.
There are three kinds of milk.

And so on. About the motion through the water of the star-fish, it is difficult for us to affirm anything. As for the tap-roots of the pomegranate, they are like all other principal roots of similar trees, as far as we believe. They only divide and branch out when stayed in their downward progress, and severed by a keen-edged stone or other obstacle. As for the three kinds of milk—probably the milk of goats, buffaloes, and cows was alluded to. But this we can only guess. There is a wonderful impenetrability about the crass absurdities of pseudo-learned Oriental poets. One more example of this. On the 2nd of last month we learn that, in Allahabad and Jubbulpore, and even as far west as Bombay, copies of a "poem" were circulated, almost if not quite gratis (as if "honour" was the sole object of the writer), purporting to be a "transcript from vernacular," on the title-page of which it was stated that a thousand copies of the pamphlet were published. The poem opened thus, after a vague invocation:—

We will see: the King that is to be: Prepare Cannon.

The Moon-faced, Fish-eyed Deity.

Fire! Bang! The Guns go off from One

To Twenty One!

Hindus, we must explain, especially admire the eye of the fish, and when praising the eyes of any one, often liken them to its.

This is bad enough, even to quote. The Bombay papers have, by this mail alone, at least seventeen references to the "moonlike face" of the Prince of Wales. Here are four lines from a translation from one Mahratti poem:—

To set eyes on thy moonlike face, O Prince, all Hindoos expectant like the Chakora bird,

For their sake thou hast crossed the great ocean; and hastened hither, O thou true friend of the poor.

To give thee a reception becoming thy high station, whence the power to these poor people?

The little so offered with loyalty, O Prince, it is for thee graciously to accept!

The translation is crabbed; however, it is simple, and we have several dozen more lines of it in the *Times of India*, which we have no will to quote. But what do our readers say to this?—

If, in Ghir-pand *query*, "Ghurum-pāni," hot water? the heat of fire and the cold of the river or sea mix together, till the latter be vanquished.—So—

Mix with us. Prince of the Cold North!

North, yes and South, and East, and West!

Mā-shālī-hizbī! *query*, Mahashalahasbas?

For this production a certain eccentric native gentleman appears to be responsible, "who," says an informant, "came to grief here (near Bombay) over the Harbour Reclamation Scheme, but recovered, and now writes poetry. He is a much esteemed Freemason. I am certain he is not the Mr. Jacob who writes in the *Bombay Gazette*. I need not say more; and Mr. S. Blanchard declares that in the way of verse he contributes nothing now save to such magazines as *London Society*, the *Parsee Punch*, &c." We do not quite comprehend our Correspondent's allusions. As far as we remember, Mr. S. Blanchard was never guilty of being intentionally funny.

Literary Gossip.

MR. CHARLES KENT, of the Middle Temple, is preparing a new edition of 'The Works of Charles Lamb.' Mr. Kent has, in this edition, given us, for the first time, the true story of Barbara S—, and a curious story it is. He has also, in the Memoir prefixed to the book, settled the date of Lamb's birth. Barry Cornwall put it as the 18th of February, and Mr. John Forster as the 11th, but both prove to be wrong. He has also shown that the usual idea that there were only three of the family—John, Mary, and Charles—is a mistake: there were more than six. For frontispiece he has given a hitherto unengraved portrait of

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Lamb in the possession of Sir Charles Dilke, for which Lamb sat to Henry Meyer, of Red Lion Square, somewhere about 1827. Numerous fac-similes are added. The publishers are Messrs. Routledge, and the edition will be styled "The Popular Centenary Edition."

ON the 16th of December, 1775, Jane Austen was born at the Parsonage House of Steventon, in Hampshire. We confess we are glad that no one has proposed to celebrate the centenary of her birth; such noisy manifestations would have ill accorded with the genius of the most charming of English novelists. But will no publisher give us an edition of her novels such as Messrs. Smith & Elder are publishing of the Misses Brontë's? Both the editions, which are at present on sale, are poorly printed on poor paper; and yet 'Emma' and 'Mansfield Park' will be remembered when 'Jane Eyre'—and in saying so we do not mean to speak depreciatingly of Currer Bell—is forgotten.

MR. GLADSTONE is busily engaged on his new book on Homer, which will be an expansion of what he has already written on the subject in the *Contemporary Review*.

MR. WILLIAM F. SKENE, author of the 'Four Ancient Books of Wales,' has in the press a work, entitled 'Celtic Scotland,' to be completed in three volumes. The first volume, which will be ready shortly, treats of the History and Ethnology; the second volume, Church and Culture, and the third volume, the Land and People, are preparing for publication by Messrs. Edmonston & Douglas, of Edinburgh.

THE funeral of Prof. Key on Monday was attended, in most inclement weather, by his colleagues and old pupils of University College and School in sufficient numbers to fill the chapel at Highgate Cemetery, to which the body was conveyed with a most wise avoidance of the mere upholstery of mourning. A simple hearse, drawn by two horses, without plumes or vanities of any kind, was followed by private carriages; and the last offices for the dead gained an impressiveness by the absence of the mutes, the mourning coaches, and all else that blends the vulgarity of a trade job with the sincerity that is the last thing we should offend against in presence of the grave. A meeting was held at University College on Tuesday to consider the present state of the Key Testimonial. The bust of Prof. Key, by Mr. Woolner, was completed a few weeks before his death. The memorial that was to be prepared for him on the occasion of its presentation to the College will now take the form of an address to his widow and family, expressing the sympathy of all his fellow-workers in their grief.

It is proposed to publish, under the direction of the Royal Society of Literature, an autotype fac-simile of John Milton's *Commonplace Book*, in the possession of Sir Frederick Graham, Bart. The work will be edited, with an introduction, by Mr. A. J. Horwood. The manuscript, as everybody knows, was discovered during recent researches made for the Historical Manuscripts Commission. It contains notes in Milton's handwriting from upwards of eighty works read by him; and these notes are in general Milton's deductions, and not mere extracts from the authors whose works he consulted. They were made at various

periods of his life. The volume also contains (besides a few notes made after Milton's death) entries by four or five other hands, made evidently by the poet's direction, and probably from his dictation. Corrections by Milton's hand prove that he employed amanuenses before he became blind. The variety of the subjects treated, and the points raised by the writings of the several scribes, make the volume an object of literary interest as well as curiosity; and the importance of it for biographical purposes, and for the verification of the poet's handwriting, can only be realized by a fac-simile of the whole, which will be executed by the process of the Autotype Company. The MS. is of quarto size, and consists of eighty written pages. The price will be two guineas to subscribers only, who are requested to forward their names to W. S. W. Vaux, Esq., M.A., Secretary to the Royal Society of Literature, 4, St. Martin's Place, Charing Cross.

THE publication of Mr. Cliffe Leslie's expected work on 'English Economic and Legal History' has been delayed by an accident to the manuscript, but we understand that it will be ready for the press in a few months.

IN response to the invitation of Mr. Charles Reade, an influential section of American authors, headed by the venerable poet, William Cullen Bryant, have offered themselves as members of the Association to Protect the Rights of Authors. A special meeting of the Committee of the Association has therefore been convened on this subject for Wednesday next.

MR. WOOLNER'S monument of the late Mrs. Froude has just been put up in St. Lawrence Church, Ramsgate, where her body lies buried. It bears the inscription, "Henrietta Elizabeth, daughter of John Ashley Warre, Esq., of West Cliff, and wife of James Anthony Froude, died February 12, 1874, æt. 49." It is said to be one of the most remarkable works that Mr. Woolner has produced, and the repose and grace of the reclining figure are, we are told, perfect.

MR. VOYSEY is going, it is rumoured, to bring out a half-crown magazine, the title of which will be the *Langham*.

THE Palæographical Society has now its fifth part of Fac-similes of Manuscripts ready for distribution. It contains two more plates from the Homer, and specimens of the old Latin fragments of St. Luke and the Josephus on papyrus, in the Ambrosian Library of Milan. Plates are also given from the 'Book of Kells,' preserved in Trinity College, Dublin; and from Greek and Latin MSS. of the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth centuries. The Oriental Series of Fac-similes is also nearly ready, and will be issued very shortly.

THE Queen received, on Monday last, at Windsor Castle, Monsieur Octave Delepierre, who presented to Her Majesty the *Essays* of the late Monsieur Van de Weyer, entrusted to M. Delepierre for publication, and dedicated, by special permission, to the Queen.

MR. MALCOLM MACCOLL has written, for the third edition of his 'Lawlessness, Sacerdotalism, and Ritualism,' a long Preface, which forms a reply to the various attacks which have been made on his book, especially to the famous article in the *Quarterly*, in which it is rumoured that a member of the Episcopal Bench

had a hand. Mr. MacColl has made an important discovery. In 1641 a committee of the House of Lords, consisting of twenty lay peers and ten bishops, and assisted by a body of the most learned divines in the kingdom, publicly declared that "all vestments in time of Divine Service are now commanded which were used 2 Edward VI." They suggested accordingly that the Rubric which gave this command should "be mended." In May, 1644, the following ordinance was passed by both Houses of Parliament:—"No copes, surplices, superstitious vestments, roods or rood lofts, or holy water font, shall be or be any more used in any church or chapel within this realm." "It will be observed," Mr. MacColl remarks, "that the cope, surplice, and vestment are placed on precisely the same footing of legality, and that no distinction whatever is made between cathedrals and parish churches." This discovery seems to upset completely the assertion of the Purchas Judgment, that the suggestion of the Lords "was never adopted by that body," and perhaps is fatal to that Judgment, which, in fact, declares that the vestments were abolished in 1564-5, and never more heard of. Why, then, should an Act of Parliament be necessary to destroy them in 1644? Mr. MacColl has also issued this Preface separately, under the title of 'My Reviewers Reviewed.'

A PROSPECTUS has just been issued of the 'Exempla Codicum Latinorum,' a series of photographic fac-simile plates from early Latin MSS. written in capital or uncial characters. This work will be issued early next year, and is to be edited by Dr. Zangemeister of Heidelberg, and Prof. Wattenbach of Berlin. It consists of forty-nine plates, of which sixteen are specimens of *capital*-writing, taken from the papyri of Herculaneum, and from codices of Juvenal, Plautus, Virgil, and other classical authors deposited in the Vatican and other libraries. The remaining number represent *uncial*-writing from classical and Biblical MSS. preserved at Rome, Florence, Verona, Vercelli, Paris, St. Gall, Vienna, &c. By the liberality of the Prussian Government, a limited number of copies are reserved for subscribers, at the very moderate price of 25 marks, payable to the publisher, Gustav Koester, of Heidelberg.

IN the forthcoming number of the *New Quarterly Magazine*, an article will appear, by Miss Frances Power Cobbe, entitled, 'Backward Ho!' The paper has for its subject the influence of mediævalism on modern thought in many of its phases. A story of Breton life, called 'The Mill of St. Herbot,' will be contributed by Mrs. Macquoid.

'THE FALSE MOVE ON EGYPT' is the title of an article by Mr. Hepworth Dixon to appear in the January number of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. The paper is intended to be a protest against the principle involved in the purchase of the Khedive's shares in the Suez Canal. The same number of the *Gentleman's* will contain the opening parts of a long poem—a story of the time of the Saxon kings of England—by the author of 'Comin' Thro' the Rye.' Mr. Robert Buchanan's prose romance, 'The Shadow of the Sword,' commencing in the same number, has for its hero a native of Brittany, inspired with a hatred of war, who, living in the days of the Consulate and First

Empire, detested Napoleon's war policy, and led a life of martyrdom in resistance to the conscription.

MR. S. J. MACKENNA, author of 'Off Parade' and other novels, as well as of several books for boys, has in the press a new work illustrative of what may be called county-family life. The publishers are Messrs. Chapman & Hall, and the title is 'Handfast to Strangers.'

DEAN HOWSON is at present engaged, with Canon Spence, of Gloucester, in preparing a new Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles.

SOME Provençal novelties may be looked forward to by all who take an interest in the now-flourishing literature of Arles and Avignon. M. Frédéric Mistral, the author of 'Mireio' and of 'Calendau,' and the head of the Provençal renaissance, will presently publish a collection of lyrics, many of them already well known separately, under the title of 'Les Iles d'Or'; and the two *félibres*, Félix Gras and Gavan, are preparing respectively 'Les Charbonniers,' a poem, and 'Amour et Pleurs,' a collection of verses.

AN Oriental series, entitled "Bibliothèque de l'École des Langues Orientales," has just been commenced under the auspices of the French Ministry of Public Instruction, which contributes a very liberal subsidy to the undertaking. The first work of the series is an edition of Mir Abd-ul-Kerim's 'Description of Afghanistan, Bokhara, and Khiva,' by M. Charles Schefer, official interpreter to the French Government. The Persian text, which for typographical reasons has been printed at Bulak, in Egypt, is ready for distribution. The French translation has just gone to the press, and will fill about three hundred large octavo pages: it will be accompanied by a handsome map of Central Asia. The publisher of the series is M. Ernest Leroux.

WE are sorry to record the death, at his residence, Hitchin Priory, of Mr. F. P. Delmé Radcliffe. The deceased gentleman was the author of a book well known in the sporting world, entitled 'The Noble Science, a Treatise on Fox-hunting'; a new edition of which he edited about a year ago. Mr. Radcliffe was seventy-one years of age.

ANOTHER literary review is about to start in Paris, under the name of *La République des Lettres*. It will be edited by M. Catulle Mendès, and the earlier numbers will contain contributions by MM. Flaubert, E. de Goncourt, Leconte de Lisle, De Banville, Zola, Cladel, Alphonse Daudet, &c. Besides dealing with current topics, this journal will also be retrospective, and promises a series of articles on some of the less known or rare productions of the early Romantic period of 1830. One of its novel features is the fact that Mr. Swinburne, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, and other young English writers known to have French sympathies, have been asked to contribute. The opening number is announced for the 15th of the present month, and the publication, at first monthly, will afterwards become fortnightly.

M. ALPHONSE DERENNE, the publisher of the new periodical just mentioned, is desirous of showing the utmost perfection that can be realized by French typography, and for this

purpose he is about to issue a poem of a hundred verses by M. Stéphane Mallarmé, entitled 'L'Après-Midi d'un Faune,' printed in elzevirian type made expressly, and on the richest paper. The illustration and artistic ornamentation are confided to M. Édouard Manet, whose designs, *culs de lampe, fleurons*, &c., executed in two tints, black and rose, will be done in imitation of Japanese methods not hitherto attempted in Europe. The number of copies of this literary and artistic curiosity is to be very limited.

THE case of Reade against the proprietors of the *Glasgow Herald* possesses, as the Lord Ordinary said, when the case was before him recently, "features of great importance to both authors and journalists." Mr. Charles Reade is the writer of a tale entitled 'A Hero and a Martyr,' which he registered at Stationers' Hall. Shortly afterwards, for the sum of 100*l.*, he gave permission to the proprietors of the *Pall Mall Gazette* to publish the story in that journal, retaining the copyright himself. The story was copied from the *Gazette* by the *Glasgow Herald* without Mr. Reade's consent, and he brought an action against the proprietors of the *Herald* for infringement of his copyright. The contention on the part of the defendants was, that they copied the tale from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, maintaining that the publication in a newspaper entitled them to do so. The Lord Ordinary summed up at some length, deciding in Mr. Reade's favour.

THE foundation-stone of some new reading-rooms, in Liverpool, to be designated "The Picton Reading-rooms," has just been laid by Mr. J. A. Picton. The cost of the building will be about 13,000*l.*

SEÑOR CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO has, amid the worries of active political life, found leisure to write an introduction to the 'History of Philip the Third of Spain,' about to be published, which is from the pen of the Marqués de la Fuensanta del Valle. The main feature of the introduction will be the discovery by Señor Cánovas of the real author of the history of that king, hitherto attributed to Vivanco.

MR. W. MACKAY has written 'The Popular Idol,' an Irish novel, in two volumes, which will shortly be published by Messrs. Bentley & Son.

THE Russian Socialist paper *Vpered*, or *Forwards*, published in London, states, in its current number, that several journals advocating principles similar to its own have lately been started in various countries. Among others may be mentioned the *Εργάτης*, or *Workman* of Athens, the Serbian *Narodna Volia*, or *Voice of the People*, the Mexican *Semanario destinado a la Defensa de la Clase Obrera de Mejico*, and *Il Secolo XIX.* of Palermo, the first number of which appeared on October 1. Together with the new year also an illustrated Socialist journal, *Die Neue Welt*, will begin to appear at Leipzig. The utterances of Social Revolution are now printed, continues the *Vpered*, in fourteen languages. A fifteenth will soon be added, namely, the Hebrew.

"A HUMBLE INQUIRER" asks:—

"Can any of your readers explain or even guess at the principle on which the subscribers to the medal and address presented to Mr. Carlyle on his eightieth birthday were selected by the occult originators of that movement? If this was a private enterprise on the part of Mr. Carlyle's per-

sonal friends (in which case there was no call to make the matter public), why are the names of Mr. Ruskin, Mr. Froude, Mr. D. Conway, Mr. Coventry Patmore, and others, conspicuous by their absence from the list? If, on the other hand, it was meant to have the address presented by the most eminent men of the day, why (to take the case of literature alone) do we find no mention of Mr. Herbert Spencer, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Matthew Arnold, Mr. Dante Rossetti, Mr. William Morris, and similar well-known authors? Is it to be believed that any one of the men I have named would have been otherwise than overjoyed to have had an opportunity of testifying to his respect for the greatest man of letters of our time? Apart from these omissions, the list now published shows a curious combination of the infinitely big and the infinitely little; and it would have been much better either to have kept the presentation a private affair, in the hands of a few personal friends, or to have given it the character of a national tribute."

THE Annual Return of the Local Government Board for the past year gives, we believe for the first time, an estimate of the length of public highways existing in England and Wales. There were 20,589 miles of road maintained by turnpikes before the change of the law in this respect. The public highways, other than the turnpike-roads, are estimated at an aggregate length of 106,573 miles. The total of 127,162 miles allows 2.18 miles run of road to every square mile of country, and one mile to every 178 inhabitants. The railways of England and Wales are now one mile run to every 5.1 square miles of country, and to every 2,000 souls.

NOVEL readers may be glad to hear that a new 'ory from the pen of the author of 'My Little Lady' is in the press. It is entitled 'Ersilia,' and will be published by Messrs. Hurst & Blackett early in the new year.

M. ZOTENBERG has printed about a third of his Catalogue of the Egyptian MSS. in the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris. M. Léon Féer has nearly completed a Catalogue of about 500 Pali MSS. in the same library.

WE have to record the death, on the 2nd inst., of the eminent French orientalist, Sédillot, author of the 'Histoire des Arabes,' and of several able treatises on Arabian astronomy and geography. M. Sédillot was sixty-eight years of age.

M. MICHEL BRÉAL has been elected to the vacant seat in the Académie des Inscriptions at the Institute of France.

THE Hon. Lewis Wingfield has in the press a novel entitled 'Slippery Ground: a Tale of Sliding Feet,' a long and ambitious story, intended to depict from personal observation many phases of life among various classes. The descriptions of life in Wapping are the result of a three weeks' sojourn in the scenes and among the characters depicted.

A COMMITTEE has been formed at Oxford which proposes to commemorate the services of Albericus Gentilis by republishing some of his best works. It is also intended, if funds permit, to put a tablet in St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, where Gentilis is buried; to contribute to the monument to be erected in Italy, and to found a prize or scholarship at Oxford.

IN our number for Christmas Day, we shall give the following articles among others, on the Literature of Europe: Belgium, by MM. E. de Laveleye and Paul Frédéricq; Bohemia, by Prof. Durdik, of the University of Prague; France, by M. Gustave Masson; Germany,

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SCIENCE

THE LAKES OF CENTRAL AFRICA.

Athenæum Club, Dec. 2, 1875.

As I am upon the point of leaving England and may not have an opportunity of addressing you for some time, perhaps you will allow me room for a few remarks upon Col. Grant's valuable paper, read at the last meeting of the Royal Geographical Society (Nov. 29).

1. The lakes of Central Africa were known to geographers, not "as far back as the year 833," but before the days of Ptolemy and Marinus of Tyre. The Nile was made to rise first from two lakes, then from three, then from one, and, lastly, from fanciful variations of these numbers. Many suspected, but I was the first to prove, that "the centre of Africa is studded with lakes"—is a lake region to the fullest extent of the term.

2. The Arabs did not "inform" Capt. Speke, who was unable to converse with them. They told me about a great water to the north, but, as the expedition had already been grossly misinformed on the matter of a "Ziwa" (lake) which turned out to be a pool, I had my suspicions. Wanting privacy, however, and time to write out my notes, I despatched my late companion northwards—the result was the discovery of the Ukerewe portion of the Victoria Nyanza.

3. Col. Grant had better have been silent upon Sir R. Murchison's "Speke, we must send you back again!" Capt. Speke had voluntarily bound himself by a verbal promise, renewed in writing from Cairo, not to appear before the Royal Geographical Society until my arrival in England.

4. The reason why Sésé, Sesse, Sasse, Sessi, or Sesseh Island did not appear in either of Capt. Speke's two maps (1, *Journal of the Discovery*, &c., and 2, *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society*, vol. xxxiii., of 1863, the latter authorized by his family) can only have been that my late companion suspected he was exploring another water.

5. Dr. Livingstone's *Journals* show that Mr. Stanley was suffering from sickness at the time of the "pleasant picnic" north of the Tanganyika Lake; thus, perhaps, we may explain why more care was not given to the exploration of this ancient point.

6. We are told that Capt. Speke gave the circumference of that monstrous bird-like shape, the Victoria Nyanza, as 645 miles, or 910 including the Baringo Lake, the head and beak of the dodo. Col. Grant's compass makes Stanley's lake measure 890 miles round, but he forgot to tell the meeting that in so doing he included the whole northern shore line, which the latest explorer has apparently placed some thirty miles too far north. Mr. E. G. Ravenstein, F.R.G.S., who has carefully measured the two areas, reduces to 20,000 square geographical miles what Capt. Speke made nearly double that space. Yet Col. Grant says, "The area of Victoria Nyanza, as made known to us by Mr. Stanley, proves that Speke far underrated its extent." Evidently geographers, like doctors, disagree.

7. Col. Grant tells us, "Capt. Burton did not seem to have any reason for his argument" against the unity of Capt. Speke's lake. My reason was simply the impossibility of a single water having four distinct outlets, and an inverted delta of inconceivable form. The "geographical world" did at first accept it, and caused me to wonder not a little at its credulity. At length, thanks to Mr. Stanley, the delta has undergone the fate of that marvellous horseshoe, "The Mountains of the Moon," which, built up on paper (see the fac-simile maps in my "Zanzibar"), has disfigured for a decade the surface of Central Africa.

8. Dr. Livingstone was, I think, right in stating that "Speke had turned his back upon the real sources of the Nile." The old hero-martyr held, apparently to the day of his death, that the ulti-

mate sources of the Nile are to be found in the highlands which shed the Lofu River to the north and the Chambeze south-westwards. Within a few months, or even weeks, we may hear that the energetic Col. Gordon or Mr. Stanley has abolished the Rusizi Lake, and substantiated the native reports, repeated so pleasantly to the meeting by Sir Samuel W. Baker, namely, that there is a canoe passage between the Tanganyika and the Luta (Mwutan) Nzige. If that be true, we shall return to the days of Ptolemy, and we shall find that the Nile gathers in two lakes, and we shall recognize in the Lofu the Caput Nili.

9. Col. Grant declares that I "said there must be several lakes, lagoons, anything, in fact, except the lake." This is hardly fair when I was, in fact, the "theoretical discoverer" (excuse the expression) of his Victoria Nyanza. What I really said was that a lake with four distinct outlets deserves to be split into four; and so far, I believe, the "geographical world" ought to be, as it at last was, with me. The lake laid down by me from Arab report may be found in Capt. Speke's map, inserted in his volume, 'What Led to the Discovery of the Sources of the Nile.' But I would not have this hearsay feature inserted either in my two volumes (the 'Lake Regions'), nor in the *Journal* of the Royal Geographical Society, nor in the little book called the 'Nile Basin.' So far from being "unjust," I wished only to be accurate; to show what had been seen, not what had been heard.

10. The Speke and Grant expedition alone must bear the blame for the errors of Messrs. A. Keith Johnston, E. Stanford, and E. Weller. These scientific mappers could hardly believe in the superficiality of observation and the geographical ignorance which gave four outlets to one lake. Consequently they divided the area into four, and they were fully justified in so doing. Mappers, like other men, cannot explain how two European travellers could traverse three streams, and yet mistake the direction of two of them.

11. Having seen the hippopotamus in the small "creeks" or rivulets of the East African coast, I fail to appreciate this sentence:—"The river Ugoweh, at the north-east corner of the lake, must be a considerable stream also, for hippopotami were seen in it."

In conclusion, I need not repeat to readers of the *Athenæum* my reasons for believing that the area occupied by Capt. Speke's two maps will be found to contain a lake region besides a lake. Mr. Stanley himself suggests that independent waters may be found to the north-east of the Victoria Nyanza, and I venture to express a hope that the Italian expedition, now setting out under the energetic Antinori, will add fresh lustre to the name of my distinguished friend, Cristoforo Negri, by finding and by mapping the lake region.

RICHARD F. BURTON.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

As our Calendar shows, a paper by Mr. Octavius Stone, who accompanied Mr. Macfarlane in his explorations of the river lately discovered in New Guinea, will be read at the next meeting of the Royal Geographical Society. It is a detailed account, and alludes to the colossal bird which is described in the sensational narrative of the same journey published in a daily paper, as an exaggerated and untrustworthy report of the natives. Such a marvellous brute it would have been a credit even to Capt. Lawson to have discovered.

Mr. Lucas, the young Englishman who left England in August, on a private exploring expedition in Africa, was by the last accounts leaving Cairo for the west of the Albert Nyanza, *via* the West Nile, possibly through the Nyam-Nyam country.

The occupation of Brava and Kismaya is certainly an infringement of the sovereign rights of the Sultan of Zanzibar, who had garrisoned these and other places along the Galla and Somali coast some years ago, as may be seen by referring to the interesting Blue-book containing an account of Sir Bartle Frere's mission.

Gerhard Rohlfs, we hear, is lecturing at present

in the United States on his travels in Africa. German papers say that his reception has been enthusiastic, and his lecture-rooms are crowded. Surely America is the paradise of lecturers.

GEOLOGICAL NOTES.

THE last part of the *Zeitschrift* of the German Geological Society contains a number of interesting papers, among which may be specially mentioned a valuable petrological memoir by Prof. Vom Rath, of Bonn, in which he describes some of the eruptive rocks of the Andes, and the rocks of Monzoni, in South-Eastern Tyrol, which have been the subject of much discussion among petrologists.

Dr. Cope has published, in the *Transactions* of the American Philosophical Society, a supplement to his Synopsis of the extinct Batrachia and Reptiles of North America. This supplement describes the remains of air-breathing vertebrata from the coal-measures of Linton, Ohio, which have been collected by Prof. Newberry, the Director of the Geological Survey of that State. The writer believes that all these carboniferous air-breathing vertebrates were Batrachians, and that true reptiles did not then exist. The Linton remains include a large number of new species and several new genera.

The November number of the *Journal* of the Geological Society contains an unusually large number of good papers, including one by Mr. J. Clifton Ward, 'On the Granitic and Metamorphic Rocks of the Lake District.' Mr. H. F. Blanford has a paper 'On the Age of the Plant-bearing Series of India'; and Mr. Hicks discusses the physical conditions under which the Cambrian and Lower Silurian rocks were probably deposited.

It should be noted, in connexion with that great undertaking, the construction of a railway tunnel beneath the Straits of Dover, that MM. Larousse and Lavallée have been actively engaged during the past week in taking soundings near the English coast, and they express themselves perfectly satisfied with the results obtained.

The recent issue of the seventeenth part of the 'Reliquie Aquitanique' completes this work, which has been in course of publication during the last ten years. Both M. Lartet and Mr. Christy, its original projectors, have passed away, and the task of completing the work has been ably carried out, amid many difficulties, by Prof. Rupert Jones.

Did the cold of the Glacial Epoch extend over the Southern Hemisphere? This important question is answered in the negative by Capt. F. W. Hutton, who has contributed to the December number of the *Geological Magazine* a paper which embodies the results of his own observations in New Zealand. He maintains that the evidence is decidedly against the idea of a colder climate having formerly prevailed there.

The current number of the *Geological Magazine* opens with a paper by Dr. Ricketts, in which he discusses the cause of the Glacial Period, with reference to the British Isles.

Prof. James Orton, who has paid two visits to the Valley of the Amazons, has communicated to the November number of the *Annals of Natural History* an interesting paper on the geological structure of this locality. Although the sands and clays of the Amazons Valley had been regarded as quite unfossiliferous, he succeeded in discovering fossils in several beds; and an examination of these remains shows that the vast horizontal deposits of the Amazons Valley are of Tertiary age, probably Eocene.

Prof. Hull's address as President of the Royal Geological Society of Ireland is published in the last part of the Society's *Journal*. He is succeeded in the Presidentship by Sir Robert Kane. The same number of the *Journal* contains a paper, by Mr. Kinahan, 'On the Estuary of the River Slaney in Co. Wexford,' and one by Mr. E. T. Hardman, 'On Some New Localities of Upper Boulder Clay in Ireland.'

The characters of the leading types of structure which may be recognized amongst Palæozoic Corals have been studied by Mr. Thomson, of Glasgow, and Prof. Nicholson, of St. Andrews.

the Assyrian Belief in the Immortality of the Soul, as illustrated by the Twelfth Izdubar Tablet,' by Mr. W. Boscawen,—"On the First Salier Papyrus," by Prof. E. S. Lushington, and—"On Two Ancient Maps of the Holy Land," by Mr. S. M. Drach.

PSYCHOLOGICAL.—Dec. 2.—Mr. Serjeant Cox, President, in the chair.—Mr. R. W. Parker, Mrs. C. Hobson, and Mrs. S. Dixon were elected Members.—The President read a paper 'On Professor Tyndall's Article, "On Materialism" in the *Fortnightly Review*.' A long discussion followed, which was adjourned to the next meeting.

- MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.
- Nov. Social Science Association, 8.—Limits to the Applicability of the Statistical Method with special reference to Sanitary Science. Dr. E. W. Richardson.
 - Royal Academy, 8.—Anatomy, Mr. J. Marshall.
 - British Architects, 8.—Dwellings for the Poor, Mr. H. A. Darbishire.
 - Society of Arts, 8.—Discoveries and Philosophies of Liebig, with Special Reference to their Influence upon the Advancement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, Lecture IV, Dr. Thudichum (Canter Lecture).
 - Geographical, 8.—Ascent of the Mat-Kassa River, New Guinea, Mr. O. Stone; Journey from Autanarivito to Mejunera, Mr. J. H. Maynard.
 - Anthropological Institute, 8.—The Weddas of Ceylon, Mr. E. F. Hartshorne; The Belief in Bhūtas—Devil and Ghost Worship in Western India, Mr. M. J. Walhouse; Localities from whence the Tin and Gold of the Ancients were derived, Mr. G. O. G. Napier.
 - Civil Engineers, 8.—Discussion on the Brighton Intercepting Sewers; Probable Errors of Levelling, Mr. W. Atty.
 - Colonial Institute, 8.—Acclimatization, Mr. S. Wilson.
 - Royal Academy, 8.—Anatomy, Mr. J. Marshall.
 - Meteorological, 7.—Registration of Sunshine, Mr. R. H. Scott; Rainfall at Calcutta, Mr. R. Strachan; Use of the Rotatory Thermometer, *Thermometric Journal* on Board ship, Mr. R. H. Scott; The Moon's Influence in Connection with our Extremes of Atmospheric Temperature, Mr. G. D. Brumham.
 - Society of Arts, 8.—Health, Comfort, and Cleanliness in the House, Mr. T. Blashill.
 - Geological, 8.—Denuding Agencies and Geological Deposition under the Flow of Ice and Water, with the Laws which regulate these Actions, and the Special Bearing on River-drainage, &c., Mr. A. Tylor; Physical Geology of East Angia during the Glacial Period, Mr. W. H. Penning.
 - Linnean, 8.—Structure and Development of the Bird's Skull, Part 2, Mr. Parker; Plants Collected at the Admiralty Islands, Mr. Moseley; Sport in *Paridium triceps*, Mr. King.
 - Chemical, 8.
 - Royal, 8.
 - Psychological, 8.—Adjourned Discussion on Prof. Tyndall's paper "On Materialism."
 - Antiquaries, 8.—Representation of the Moon in Herringfleet Church, Mr. J. T. Fowler.
 - Quaker Micro-cosm, 8.—Larval Crinipede, Mr. H. Davis; Measurement of Angular Aperture, Mr. J. E. Ingens.
 - Royal Academy, 8.—Anatomy, Mr. J. Marshall.
 - Society of Arts, 8.—Industrial Pathology, or the Influence of certain Injurious Occupations on Health and Life, Dr. B. W. Richardson.
 - Philological, 8.—Hanan and Max Müller, late Prof. Grote.

Science Gossip.

At the Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Society in November, 1874, the regulation under which the election of Fellows takes place was called in question by one of the Fellows. It was contended that restriction of the number in each year to fifteen not only lessened their power and usefulness, but would reduce their numbers to a dangerous point. The question was referred to a committee, exceedingly well chosen for the purpose, and, as Dr. Hooker informs us in his Anniversary Address of the present year, their discussion was alike careful and comprehensive, and ended in a unanimous resolution not to recommend the Council of the Society to make any change at present. The applause with which this conclusion was received by the meeting shows that the majority of the Society are of opinion that their welfare will not be endangered by maintenance of the present rule of election.

ANOTHER topic brought forward by Dr. Hooker, and not for the first time, is the Meteorological Office, and the anomalous position which it occupies between the Royal Society on the one part and the Government on the other. This has continued during nine years, and in all that time the business of the office has been directed by a committee of Fellows of the Royal Society, who have given their services gratuitously, notwithstanding the popular error that the 10,000*l.* a year voted for the carrying on of the Meteorological Office was voted for the Royal Society. Formerly the office was a branch of the Board of Trade, and it may perhaps revert to it, for the Lords of the Treasury have given notice that they have appointed a committee to inquire into the working of the office, and the value of the results hitherto obtained. The two principal questions with which the committee will concern themselves are—1, How far the statistics hitherto collected have led

to the discovery or confirmation of meteorological laws; and 2, How far the principles upon which storm warnings are given have been justified by results? The inquiry here indicated will do good every way; it will elicit the best meteorological information from all quarters, discover the facts that admit of practical application, and will let the public know to what purpose their large annual grant of money has been spent.

TWENTY-NINE Fellows of the Royal Society died between Nov. 30, 1874, and Nov. 30, 1875. The list of losses, as read by the Secretary at the Anniversary Meeting last week, is thus a heavy one. As usual it is the veterans that disappear; and among them, on this occasion, are men who will be missed, and who have long been conspicuous in the ranks of science and of learning. It will not be difficult, in going through the following table, to assign to each one his proper position. Three, Carrington, 47; Hanbury, 49; Sherard Osborn, 53, were under sixty: three, Kay, 60; Webster, 64; Selwyn, 69; were under seventy: fourteen, Blake, 70; Henwood, 71; Elliot, 72; Wheatstone, 73; Gray, 75; Kiernan, 75; Willis, 75; Yorke, 75; Key, 76; Locock, 76; Sanders, 76; Dean Hook, 77; Logan, 77; Gardner Wilkinson, 79; were under eighty: six, Lyell, 80; Ryan, 82; Vignoles, 82; Hardwick, 84; Hoppus, 85; Watts Russell, 88, were under ninety: and three, Briggs, 90; Burnet, 92; Cabell, 94; were under one hundred. Clearly the Fellowship of the Royal Society is favourable to longevity; and, if old age is honourable, our readers will agree with us that the foregoing list presents very remarkable instances. Sir Edward Sabine, elected a Fellow in 1818, still remains the Father of the Society.

M. BORELLY, at Marseilles, discovered another small planet on the night of the 1st inst. This will reckon as No. 157, and raises the number of new discoveries during the present year to seventeen. The last ten of these, discovered since last August, are still unnamed. Increasing difficulty is experienced in keeping up observations of so large a number, for which purpose, however, a new and more systematic effort is being made by a mutual arrangement entered into by the observatories of Leipzig, Leyden, Lund, Pola, and Vienna. The observatories at Paris and Greenwich continue to observe them by concert in alternate fortnights; but it is becoming more and more difficult to keep up the whole number, especially as many of the more recent discoveries are excessively faint. Meridian observations, moreover, though the best when made, are of course difficult, and often fail of success when the ephemerides are not tolerably accurate.

THE Society for the Promotion of Scientific Industry, at the adjourned Annual General Meeting at Manchester on Friday, November 26, announced a loss of 3,140*l.* upon their recent Exhibition in that city. About 750*l.* was subscribed at once towards meeting the deficiency, and it is hoped the whole sum will soon be realized. Lord Derby was appointed President for the ensuing year.

FINE ARTS

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The FOURTEENTH WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES IS NOW OPEN. 5, Pall Mall East. Ten till Five.—Admission, 1*s.* ALFRED D. FAIRIE, Secretary.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The TENTH WINTER EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN, from Ten till Six.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 6*d.*—Gallery, 35, Pall Mall. H. F. PHILLIPS, Sec.

EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES IN OIL.—Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—The NINTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION IS OPEN DAILY, from Ten till Five.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 6*d.* GEORGE L. HALL, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF FRENCH ARTISTS, 108, New Bond Street.—The ELEVENTH EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN.—Admission, 1*s.* Open from half-past 9 to 6 o'clock.

SOCIETY OF FRENCH ARTISTS.—Corot's Grand Picture of the 'LAKE OF NEMI,' and P. Roybet's Three Last Pictures, are NOW ON VIEW. The Galleries are lighted up on all dark days.

EXHIBITION OF COPIES FROM WORKS OF THE OLD MASTERS.—THE ARUNDEL COLLECTION OF DRAWINGS AND PUBLICATIONS IS OPEN DAILY to the free inspection of the Public. Many additions have lately been made.—24, Old Bond Street, London, W.

ÉDOUARD FRÈRE—NOW ON VIEW, in the Galleries of Thomas Agnew & Sons, 5, Waterloo Place, ONE HUNDRED and TWENTY ORIGINAL WORKS by this eminent Artist.—Admission, including Catalogue, 1*s.* Open from Ten till Five.

"DAVID COX" EXHIBITION.—A splendid Loan Collection of nearly 500 Works of the late DAVID COX, in Oil, Water-Colour, Sepia, Chalk, and Charcoal, NOW OPEN, at the Liverpool Art Club, Myrtle Street, Liverpool.

DORÉ'S GREAT PICTURE of 'CHRIST LEAVING THE PRETORIUM,' with 'Dream of Pilate's Wife,' 'The Night of the Crucifixion,' 'La Vierge,' 'Christian Martyrs,' 'Crusaders,' &c., at the DORÉ GALLERY, 25, New Bond Street. Ten to Six.—1*s.*

GIFT BOOKS.

Mrs. Mundi at Home, R.S.V.P., is the title of 'Lines and Outlines by Walter Crane' (Marcus Ward & Co.). Mrs. Mundi's invitation to all nations to an "at home," how the invited got to her house, what they did there, and how they went back again, are the subjects of a series of elaborate drawings in outline and simple verses comprised in this oblong quarto volume, in a dainty cover of French grey, with well-toned decorations in bronze colour and white. The "fun" of the thing is a little laborious, not to say slightly trivial and tedious, and, considerable as are the charms of not a few of Mr. Crane's designs, everybody, we believe, will think that the artist has made a mistake in abandoning the vigorous and attractive sketches in brilliant colour which, under the guise of "children's books," have delighted so many thousands of children of a riper age. Four-and-twenty designs, with as much connexion between them as existed in 'King Luckie-boy's Feast,' describe the ceremonies preparatory, accompanying, and consummating the entertainment. There are certainly fine elements in some of these designs, such as the "team" of Lord Sol, who drove "four-and-twenty" in hand with Castor and Pollux, two hard-visaged, knavish, smug-looking grooms, in the dickey behind the coach which it pleased that highly intellectual nobleman to drive. Not a few of the figures of ladies, walking, dancing, or otherwise occupied, are, despite the whimsical exaggeration of their attitudes, graceful; some others, being devoid of exaggeration, are still more charming, as the figure of "Ver" as she dances with "Sol," also that of "Autumna" in a later plate. Some of the figures, male and female, have a nobility and beauty which are too rare in these days, and nearly all the figures are extremely well drawn—all are carefully drawn. There are dashes of satirical humour about these designs, indicating the existence of power in Mr. Crane's mind which ought to be more frequently displayed and more vigorously applied.

The Arctic World: its Plants, Animals, and Natural Phenomena (T. Nelson & Sons).—The lucid narratives of this well-got-up volume appear to be due, like its excellent woodcuts, to 'Le Tour du Monde,' so well known in France. It is a capital book, first rate as a present for boys.

The Golden Harp Album (Routledge & Sons), *My Darling's Album* (Partridge & Co.), *Little Wide-awake*, by Mrs. S. Barker (Routledge & Sons), and *Half-Hours with the Kings and Queens of England*, by W. H. S. Kingston (Partridge & Co.), are volumes of the same kind. The last contains laughable portraits of the ladies and gentlemen who have occupied the British throne, and a much more acceptable text of the historical sort. The first noteworthy fact we notice as recorded is that Christianity was not introduced to Britain by Augustine, but that, notwithstanding most elaborate preparations for pictures in the Houses of Parliament testifying to the contrary, it existed there long before 596 A.D. So far this is well.—Mrs. Barker's book is a collection of pretty verses and simple stories for young children; it includes a chromolithograph of two infants sleeping, which is unfortunate, and some capital designs on wood taken from blocks that are terribly worn.—The 'Darling's Album' contains woodcuts of mixed qualities, some tolerable, some trash, and little stories for infants. The book is a poor one.—The *Golden Harp Album* contains pretty woodcuts, most of which are foreign, and little stories and poems suited to the tastes of or describing children, and

generally welcome on account of their gracefulness and freedom from goodness and affectation.

Sunday Reading for the Young, 1875, and *Chat-terbox*, 1875 (W. Gardner), *Our Own Fireside Annual*, 1875, and *The Day of Days Annual*, 1875 (Nisbet & Co.), are periodicals issued for the use of children of various ages. The last named is the most important; all contain woodcuts.—*Army and Navy Drolleries* and *Aquarium Comicum* (Warne & Co.) are tracts in large type with highly coloured illustrations; the humour of the so-called "drolleries" is a little rough and dull, of the sort so popular with the lower orders in valentines, but not quite of the lowest strain. The 'Aquarium Comicum' derives most of its fun from its music; the illustrations, though rather "loud," are not coarsely coloured.

Illuminating Made Easy. Illustrated, with a packet of patterns, by E. Offor (Bunyard).—Mr. Offor claims to have had large and long experience in illuminating and copying ancient examples of the art. The present publication contains simple and practical directions for filling with pigments the outlines of certain patterns he supplies in addition to those in the volume, for preparing the pigments and gold. If the operator is content with this mechanical process, and aims at no higher result than it assures, we have no doubt that a person of even less than ordinary intelligence will contrive to make a coloured specimen card, that is, if he knows already how to use the tools, to say nothing of the materials recommended by our author and illuminator. Without such knowledge we fear that, even with superhuman care, the tyro will be certain to make hideous messes. Let the humbly ambitious buy Mr. Offor's book, and try their hands and patience according to his instructions. The book is, on the whole, rather simpler and more practical than most of its class.

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.
WINTER EXHIBITION.
(Second Notice.)

How profoundly pathetic and full of poetry a piece of pure realism may be when the poetry of nature is recognized, and how unfair and shallow are the objections urged against realistic painting as such, may be seen in Mr. F. Powell's drawing of mere waves of the sea (No. 156), somewhat misty, though sunny air, and clouds above them. There is not a particle of extraneous incident beyond what pertains to these elements of what is as truly a "design" as the 'Transfiguration' itself. Here pale green waves are heaving with the energy of a distant storm, and are already rising higher in the tumult of an increasing breeze; the crests are already torn from the lapsing waves, and with the lace-like foam, drift to leeward up and down the slopes of the billows. As ever with Mr. Powell, the modelling of the surface and the local colour of the water are given with such transcendent skill that solidity is secured in perfection; observe the treatment of the light which falls directly on the spaces of foam, and the cold colour of the sun-shadows, that seem to run before the ripples which fill the hollows of the great waves. Notice, by the same, *Herring Boats*, *Tarbert* (42), *Loch Seavaig* (176), and two studies of aerial effects, in one frame, *Reflection*, and *Roseneath Point* (292), the first displaying, with a marvellous charm, clouds and water, and the reflection of the former on the expansive, shining plain of the latter: an exquisite gem; though simple, the reverse of prosaic, and though purely realistic, a noble illustration of style; the second drawing shows a low, wooded point of land, projecting into the smooth sea, and is extremely beautiful. *Ben More, from the Sound of Ulva—Morning Mist*, (390) is by the same artist, and worthy of its companions.

Mr. B. Foster has never before been so fortunate as a marine painter as with his large *Study of Sea* (105), great waves breaking in a tumultuous sea at the bases of lofty and dark cliffs and on a rocky shore nearer the front. The elements of this work are drawn with characteristic care and

tact, and, if not with consummate learning, still with remarkable skill, conveying a general rather than an accurate idea, or solid impression, of the subject, and, with all the action of the composition, the work is devoid of the inspiration usually derived from a spectacle of tremendous natural forces at work. The sky is rather conventional, not to say mechanical.—Mr. C. Dodgson shows a noble idea of coast painting, with the richest and boldest, yet most subtly graded tones and tints, in *Ruins on the Beach*, *Oystermouth* (110), a lime-kiln, with rocks that glow in a deep-toned sunlight, and accompanied by purple-grey shadows of infinite wealth of colour. It is a masterpiece in breadth of lighting and general effect. *On the Moore, Darnholm* (181), a waste of gravel, rocks, and heather, painted like a fresco in its brilliancy, tenderness of colour, and feeling for greys, and, although wonderfully light in touch, and clear as water colours *per se* can make it, as solid as possible. See, by the same, *In Broadslade Bay, Gover* (215).—Mr. A. W. Hunt's *Yewdale Cottages* (116), a clump of trees, a field, hill-sides, and buildings, is exceedingly delicate and refined in rendering local colour and the effect of a veiled atmosphere in sunlight, and in tone also; but, with all its exquisiteness, it is rather thin and prismatic; in fact, it seems a congeries of notes of local tints rather than a study of a whole effect, or a landscape proper. *Loch Torridon* (75), a cliff, with water, and a noble distance, is broad, full of strength in tone, extremely soft and beautiful throughout. See *Yorkshire Dales* (351), with a lovely distance, by the same; *Harlech* (394), and *Coniston Old Man* (441), the last a most solemn, vigorous, carefully studied, and rich picture of a cascade in a cleft of a mountain, shown in the shadow of a lowering cloud; a picture of great value, and marked by pure breadth and solidity of style, beautifully graded throughout.

Mr. F. Tayler has several sketches, which, as such, have the charm of rich and brilliant colour,—see *Huntsman and Hounds* (163), for the splendour of a red coat admirably treated.—Mr. G. A. Frapp's *Study at Tintagel* (193) shows, with characteristic breadth and delicacy, solidity and largeness of style, the cliff in veiled sunlight. His *On the Thames* (206) is a fine picture of willows crouching towards the water, corn-fields in harvest, and rushy islets. The silvery gleam of the water is, we think, a little too warm for the season, but it is beautiful in its proper colour.—Mr. Brewtnall's *Crabbed Age and Youth* (227), is a thoroughly unfortunate example of an affectation of refinement, but it is so far self-consistent that the producer may even believe work of this sort belongs to high art; if such is the case, he must, at least now and then, marvel to think how easy it is to be a great painter.

We come on the antithesis of this sort of thing in Mrs. Allingham's sound, learned, solid, and vigorous little bit of kitchendom, *Peeling Potatoes* (352), a girl at work before a sink. There is more true art, both technical and pathetic, in the turn of the maid's body, the exquisite draughtsmanship of her hands, to say nothing of her face, than in all Mr. Brewtnall's sham poetics, threadbare "inspiration," and trumphy imitations of the "old masters." There is immeasurably greater value in the skill employed in painting a single red brick in the pavement of this scullery, than in that which the hysterical fervour of Mr. Brewtnall's sham poetry has led him to employ on subjects which nothing but fine powers could make tolerable. All Mr. Brewtnall's pictures here pretend to be "very fine," but the artist has neither learning nor self-respect enough to justify their pretences; still these works may be useful, as showing exactly the difference between what is true and what is false. Mrs. Allingham's *Last House in Lynmouth* (240), a beautiful, broad study, of deep tone and strong colour, is, with perfect solidity, admirable in all ways. See *Cottage Children* (358), *An Orchard* (364), and the excellent, graceful drawing in the spirited sketch *Copee in Spring* (97).—Sound and learned draughtsmanship appears in Mr. Marks's studies for decoration, *Cranes* (258) and *Storks* (348).

THE INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.
WINTER EXHIBITION.

THERE are a good many pleasing, and some excellent, works in this collection of drawings; but few offer salient points for the critic, and most of the pictures are below mediocrity. Trivialities abound, as they abound everywhere, but they occur in a somewhat larger proportion in Pall Mall than elsewhere. One could not find in the Dudley Gallery, nor at the current Exhibition of the Society of Painters in Water Colours, so much weak, imbecile, and flabby draughtsmanship, so many puerile ideas expressed, or such indifference to serious studies. On the other hand, it is right to say that the inferiority is rather a matter of degree than of kind, and that it is relatively less than of yore. Of course it takes a long time to raise the standard of a Society whose members are elected for life, yet the progress of the Institute in this respect has been considerable of late years, and the body has now a constituency superior to that of ten years ago. Wishing the Society all success in the attempt to raise the standard for membership, we proceed to criticize the drawings placed before the public on Monday last.

Mr. J. D. Linton's works will attract the student as strongly as before. They are *Off Guard* (No. 271), showing soldiers in a gloomy guard-room, two with lutes, one of whom sings; another soldier listens, and a third smokes; a girl approaches. The costumes are of the seventeenth century. The work comprises varied and careful studies of character, good drawing, and learned modelling; the mode of practice is searching, and the execution is only too precise and sharply defined. Nevertheless, some of the armour and dresses are perfect examples of rich, strong tone and colour, combined with rare skill in a somewhat too conventional, or, rather, a too purely artistic chiaroscuro. The same merits and the same excess occur in *On Guard* (46), a halberdier of the seventeenth century in full costume, as if he had walked out of his quarters; but there is a touch or two of the modern model about the formidable and heavily armed man who swaggers before us. The design of the figure is spirited, and the whole work was evidently spontaneous in conception. An excess of greenish black mars what is otherwise a fine picture. The *Trumpeter* (63) is an old trooper in red breeches, and, for the rest, in complete *tenuis*; with all its hardness, or rather its excess of precision in handling, this is a beautiful piece of art.

Mdlle. R. Bonheur has sent a charming drawing of cattle near a farmhouse, and lying near trees in sunlight, or standing. It is called *A Meadow at Fontainebleau* (70); the handling of the hides and the drawing of each animal are, of course, masterly, marked by a large and masculine style of draughtsmanship, solid, bright, and almost as full of tone as an oil picture. This work deserves its honourable place in the gallery. The dappled cows on the ground are splendidly executed. One regrets that the beasts lying on each side of the tree in the centre repeat each other.—*Friends* (3), a damsel and a dog at a door, is a pretty drawing, and, although slight, good in tone and keeping, with agreeable touch and tasteful colour.—Among flower-paintings we have not, for some time, seen such clever foreshortening as appears in Mrs. Duffield's *Lilium Speciosum* and a *Study of Two Roses* (4); the red rose in the *Study* is too red, and its petals lack variety of effect, that is, their surfaces lack richness in colour as well as in lighting; and they are made to look like petals of cut paper.—With this may be noticed *A Branch of Plums* (62), by Mr. Sherrin, a drawing for which, whether he liked it or not, W. Hunt is clearly responsible; but Mr. Sherrin has no notion of that sort of art which is exercised by wig-makers who insert grey hairs here and there, and thus keep the wrinkles of their elderly customers in countenance. Mr. Sherrin's plums are solid, round, and rich, but they are too perfect to be interesting; his foliage is neatly drawn and carefully painted, but it is too vivid a green.—Mr. Wyld has two capital contrasted views of streets in Prague (7 and 8).—

Mr. Holloway's *Torcello* (24) cannot be called a street view, but it gives, with brightness, a view of the lagoon, and the distant grey campaniles of the twin islets.—Mr. Orrock's so-called *Swell on the Atlantic* (36) shows waves which have no rule in moving, and do not reflect the light so completely as might be wished.—*On the Warren* (41), by Mr. Wimperis, composed of a sandy waste, a clump of trees, and a delicately-tinted distance that has been admirably introduced, all in a beautiful silvery light, is pleasing in colour.

London itinerant vegetable sellers, their barrows and donkeys, are rarely made subjects for the brush. Mr. T. Green has given interest to such a group, and to two girls, customers for mistletoe, placed in a suburban street in snowy weather. The picture is styled *Christmas Time* (47); the execution of the figures and details is extremely neat and nice; there is something agreeable in the careful painting of the flesh and in the background, a red brick house and its little garden; the representation of daylight is capital. We can commend another picture by Mr. Green, *The Roadside Inn* (78), a group of "insides" and "outsides" seated at a meal; the posing is a little too artificial, and too obviously set for a purpose; the figure of the waitress is pretty, graceful in movement, with very agreeable colour and solid in handling. Although a more pretentious picture, it is inferior, artistically speaking, to 'Christmas Time.' See *The Library* (219) and *A Study* (350), by the same artist, the latter showing a young lady standing near some china, a capital work.—Mr. Herkomer is, no doubt, preparing an important picture to secure the reputation he won by the Chelsea Hospital scene, the best painting of a military subject in the last Academy. He sends two or three inconsiderable drawings to this gathering—among them is *A Dilemma* (58), tourists entering an Alpine cottage while the inmates sit about a table, an incident which does not offer a subject worth painting, and we confess to a difficulty in seeing the drift of this, technically speaking, excellent piece of painting. The representation of interior light is good, and the group of figures is well composed. *Siegfried Hubert Herkomer* (106) is a capital sketch-portrait of a quaint infant, in an elaborately negligent straw hat, with a face that is full of energy, will, and character. *The Poacher's Fate* (273), a hillside, with groups of horrified peasantry approaching a corpse, indicated by the pale, clenched fingers and rigid legs of a man who has fallen, has variety of expression so strongly given that we sympathetically shudder. We should not care to have any room of ours adorned with *Stained Wood Decorations* (382) and the same (384), groups of fauns and nymphs in monochrome; there is, however, originality and great spirit in the latter, and both are artistically executed, and, for decorations, very well drawn.

A large and attractive landscape, by Mr. E. G. Warren, styled *The Wharfe* (71), a vista of the well-wooded banks, and the shining and shadowed surface of the lovely river, is rather showy than solid; the colour has strength rather than delicacy, the picture is brilliant rather than refined. The tinting is too positive, and there is a deficiency of grey throughout. There is a perfect contrast between Mr. Warren's landscapes—which are in a high key of colour and vividly lighted, between his sharply defined forms, and his indifference to the greys—and those of Mr. Hine, whose heart is set on greys, who pairs with the tints of an opal, and with sober and delicate hues depicts, not shining waters, glowing beechen foliage, and brilliant autumnal skies, but ashen and opalescent tones, and tints of evening sinking over huge shoulders of gigantic downs and the vast hollows that are scooped between them, or who on grey sea shores sees the pale vapours of twilight gathering to shroud the radiance of the moon.

Mr. Hine has for many years chosen subjects such as favour the powers we have mentioned, and he has delighted in middle hues and tones, and most of his works are masterpieces of keeping, of delicate colouring and rich, deep chiaroscuro, with forms of great simplicity so composed that they

have enormous grandeur and irresistible dignity. He is not unequal to himself this year, but one or two of his drawings are, as it seems to us, less firm—not less learned or fine—than others have been. They are all beautiful, so we may note them in order. The first is *On Midhurst Common* (81), a fine comprehensive study of a landscape of large forms and simple elements, beautiful in tone, and rich in local colour of a subdued kind. Let us call attention to the ferny hillocks which, in the middle distance, extend nearly across the picture; the plain beyond, finely graded with lines and bars of foliage; and to the grave, grey chalk downs that close the view. The foreshortening of the road which recedes from the front is a capital piece of drawing. *A Cottage at Midhurst* (168) is a charming study throughout. *On the Downs, near Lewes*, (256) displays the mode of art and vein of feeling most frequently affected by Mr. Hine, but it is slighter in treatment than we expect his pictures to be. A charming coast-piece is *At Sand's End, near Whitby* (266), also *At Sand's End* (280). *On Hampstead Heath* (362) is grand, a study of evening gathering with dun, grey, and purple to extinguish the orange light of sunset. The principles of the composition of this example are different from those most commonly adopted by the painter; its pathetic suggestiveness is first rate. *Low Tide, Evening* (370), a shore and sea in deepening twilight, is an illustration of what we said before, and owes much to its impressive sentiment; full of colour, its greys are most delicate.

"*April is in my Mistress' Face*" (243), a girl seated with her hands in her lap, is by Mr. E. H. Fahey. She wears a sulphur-coloured dress, with a somewhat deep tinge of green, and the picture possesses many good points, which the painter should study to improve. Its shortcomings are really imperfect good elements, e.g., there is character in the pouting face and expression on the features, although the flesh needs finish and the carnations lack the rose; the drawing of the figure, especially of the bosom, although intelligent, needs to be refined and finished; notice in this respect the arms and hands. Some additional grace for the attitude and more elegance in the form—features to be developed in future studies by the painter—are needed to make this artistic study acceptable to painters. By the same artist we notice a landscape, *The Old Farm* (230), a very interesting and, in many respects, excellent work, but, like most of Mr. Fahey's painting, objectionable from its excessive hardness and over-definition of forms by means of outline, and general neglect to represent the inner contours of the objects by careful modelling and varieties of colour, and light, and shadow. This picture is, on the whole, defective in subtlety of colouring and richness of modelling; accordingly the landscape is harder than ever, and less solid than former productions of the same artist. It shows a stone house, with sparse trees about it, and outbuildings, and a distance of fields and sloping land, all seen in afternoon sunlight.

Among the pictures we commend in general terms to the visitor's attention are: *An Errand of Mercy* (86), by Miss Gow—Sisters of Charity trudging in a country road, with a cart loaded with movables for some one in need; *Study of Sandhills, Barmouth* (88), by Mr. Mogford; *Caught* (108), a damsel and a young dragon detected in love-making by an elderly gentleman, the girl's attitude of distress and surprise being capitally designed, by Mr. Staniland; *Burano* (240), by Mr. Holloway, and, likewise by him, the beautiful landscape, *Near Winchester* (254), showing an old house by the water-side, near a stone bridge, and evening settling in a tender golden haze behind the pyramid of roofs and foliage; the reflections of the building, its encircling walls and trees, appear in the placid river, which has scarcely a ripple to break the tints, that are like tarnished silver and rosy, purple, blue. *After the Storm* (297), by Mr. Small, should not be overlooked, for it is a very original study of landscape, yet a little crude in its present condition. The lover of still-life would

lose half his pleasure in this Exhibition if he missed Mrs. Angell's *Bramble Blossom* (345), and *Golden-crested Wren* (346); the latter is a little gem.

SALE.

MESSES. CHRISTIE, MANSON & WOODS sold, for pounds, on the 4th instant, two pictures, companions, by R. Wilson: Tivoli, looking over the Campagna; and Lake Albano, 441. Likewise the following water-colour drawings: De Wint, A Landscape, with a Windmill, 26; A Landscape and Cattle, 37.—G. Barret, A Classical Landscape, 47.—W. Nesfield, Falls of the Clyde, 29; A Landscape, with a Flock of Sheep, 32; A Lake Scene, Morning, 64; A Classical Landscape, Evening, 52.—D. Cox, The Tuileries, 33; A Road Scene, with Cottages and Figures, 168; Landscape, with a Pool of Water, 115.—W. Bennett, A View in Windsor Forest, 26.—J. Sherrin, Pine-apple, Grapes, and other Fruit, 31.—G. Fripp, Montreuil, 34; On the Lago Maggiore, 29.—C. Fielding, A Gale at Sea, 52.—W. Hunt, Bird's Nest and Apple-blossom, 48; Purple Grapes and Pear, 39; The Christmas Pie, 153.—S. Prout, Swiss Cottages, 45.—L. Haghe, Interior of a Chapel, 34. Another property, pictures: "J. L. Jerome" (sic), Pfifferari, 535.—J. Clark, Strayed from Home, 110.—T. Creswick, The Mill Stream, 136; On the Tees, near Barnard Castle, 338.—Y. Cole, Near Woolmer Forest, 105.—W. Frith, The Toilette, 137.—T. Cooper, An Evening Party, 351.—E. Nicol, The Day before Donnybrook, 198; The Day after Donnybrook, 157.—W. Dobson, In the Garden, 131.—B. Leader, On the Llugwy, 210.

NOTES FROM ATHENS.

Athens, Nov. 27, 1875.

ARCHÆOLOGISTS will be glad to learn that the Convention between Germany and Greece, concerning the excavations at Olympia, has at last been voted by the Chamber. M. Stamatakis, the former superintendent over the antiquities in the Peloponnesus, has been replaced by M. Dimitriadis, who can speak both German and French. For the benefit of strangers, it is much to be desired that the guardians of the ancient treasures of Greece should possess some knowledge of other languages than their own. It is hardly to be credited, though it is the painful fact, that no information is to be obtained at any of the national museums and collections, except by those who know modern Greek. The consequence is, that, owing to the few hours a week when access can be had to the precious treasures they contain, many persons making but a brief stay in this city, are compelled to depart without seeing the chief objects they came to examine. In this way a distinguished antiquarian of my acquaintance never saw the Patissia Museum collection, the best of its class in Greece, though he made the attempt four or five times.

The Germans have fifty men at work at the excavations. They have opened trenches in some places, and made soundings in others. Already they have discovered the remains of the old boundary-wall of the city, and have come upon some bases of columns of the Doric order. But the whole business of the Convention has roused the bitterest feelings of indignation against Germany, and wounded the pride of the Greeks. The agreement was entered upon in April, when the Boulgaris ministry was in power. This ministry is now accused of many illegal and unconstitutional acts, and many of the laws passed at that time have been annulled. The Commissions of Foreign Affairs and of Public Instruction, to whom the consideration of the Convention had been assigned, blamed severely M. J. Delyanni, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, for having exchanged the ratification of the Convention before it received any legislative sanction. It is said, too, that Germany knows well the illegal nature of the powers usurped by the accused ministry, and how strongly public opinion throughout Greece condemns their proceedings. The Commission does not hesitate to express its surprise that, under the

circumstances, Germany should demand the execution of a Convention made in defiance of the prescriptions of the Charter by individuals destitute of authority. Moreover, an act of accusation has been laid before the House by several influential members against M. Delyanni, for having deceived the King in submitting to his sanction a law which never had been voted by Parliament. They assert that the Convention contains articles that dishonour the dignity of the Greek nation, wounding, above all, its *amour propre* and that it imposes upon the nation obligations that are contrary to its interests. Yet such is the strength of Germany at this moment abroad, that the very House which condemns the Convention, and proceeds to impeach the Minister who arranged it, is compelled to stultify itself by voting its ratification. The whole Greek press, the Archaeological Society, the most influential men in the country, its greatest writers and orators, all speak with abhorrence of this Convention, which seems to proclaim them unworthy of possessing the land of their fathers. M. Philemon, the Deputy of Attica, in the most eloquent speech that has been delivered this session, expressed the sense of the House at the humiliating position in which they were placed. He said definitely that the Chamber voted the Convention at the will of a more powerful nation. M. Valetta declared that their assent was yielded simply because they could not help it. Greece has become the "gendarme archéologique" of Germany, and yielded to a foreign power the glory it should have reserved for itself. Amid the protests of deputies that their vote was given under the empire of necessity, the bill received the assent of the House. M. Delyanni, who had received from the Emperor of Germany the Red Eagle of the First Class as a recompense for his services in this matter of the Convention, now awaits his trial before the special tribunal.

The famous plain of Marathon has been drained with complete success by M. Soutzo. The *Ephemeris* takes occasion to remark that this will effect a modification in the topography of Attica. In effect the existence of the marsh explains the defeat of the Persian army by one ten times less numerous. The Persians, encumbered with forces which could only hinder one another during the action, were helpless when victory was declared for the Athenians. Between the sea and the marsh they were completely blocked in, and the retreat soon transformed itself into a total and bloody rout. 1,500 hectares of good land have been gained by the drainage, and the inhabitants will be saved from the fevers that hitherto have periodically attacked them.

M. Moucaos, an official of Cerigo, announced some time ago to the Government that some sponge-fishers had discovered at the bottom of the sea a part of the bas-reliefs taken from the Parthenon by Lord Elgin, and lost in the passage of one of his ships. As he persisted in his affirmation, notwithstanding much disapproval on the part of the *savants*, the Archaeological Society sent the superintendent of antiquities, M. Stamatiadis, to investigate. He engaged twenty-five divers, who for three days explored at the bottom of the sea. They found the carcass of a ship, the *débris* of an anchor, and some cannon balls, but neither marbles nor bas-reliefs of any sort. They say that M. Moucaos will incur the danger of a civil prosecution for the expenses to which he has put the Archaeological Society in its search after imaginary antiquities.

The archaeological discoveries which members of the French School at Athens have made at Santorin are of much interest. Vases have been discovered of a pre-historic date, strange to Greek civilization, having a kind of family resemblance to those found by M. Schliemann. They were skillfully restored by M. Burnouf before his much-regretted departure from Athens, and are now to be seen in the French School. In accordance with the law, an inventory was drawn up of the objects discovered, and laid before the Greek Government.

M. Challet, the consul of France at Syra, has

been making excavations near the church of S. Michael, and has discovered an ancient aqueduct.

M. Cesnola, consul of the United States at Larnaca, in Cyprus, has made an important discovery at Episcopi, near Limassol, in the foundations of the old city of Cursium. He has brought to light the tomb of some great personage of an early period. In the tomb were found bracelets, a collar ornamented with precious stones, and a sceptre of massive gold weighing several pounds. The bracelets are of fine gold, and exquisitely wrought. These treasures, like those which M. Cesnola has formerly discovered, go to enrich the museum at New York.

From Crete it is announced that, among other objects of interest, there has been found a statue of Metellus, the Roman conqueror of that island.

The *Io* of Sparta announces the discovery of an excellent statue of Hercules, in his legendary position, holding in one hand his club and in the other the skin of the Nemean lion. Steps are to be taken at once to remove it to the museum which has just been built. Unhappily, this museum is too small for the collection that Sparta already possesses. It ought, surely, to have been foreseen that a museum built in the very centre of the Peloponnese could not fail soon to be enriched with many new objects. K.

Fine-Art Society.

MR. MILLAIS will contribute to the next exhibition of modern pictures at the Royal Academy a large landscape which is now nearly complete, and on which he has been engaged during the past autumn. It represents Strath Tay and the river in many curves, with the mountains on either hand in the extreme distance—vast truncated pyramids, with manifold valleys, seen in the dim sheen of rainy daylight, and partly obscured by shadows, their outlines broken by heather and foliage. The point from which the view has been taken is near Birnam; the ground slopes immediately after the immediate foreground is passed; this foreground, a marshy level in the hill-side, is broken by clear pools that gleam in the light and reflect the clumps of flowering rush, now gone to seed, which form tiny islets; the pools are encircled by mosses of diverse kinds, vegetable sponges that are vividly green, red, orange, brown, and grey; with these are harsh, seedling grasses, starved bushes that cling to the soaked earth, and are contorted like writhing snakes; black roots, boulders, and blocks of stone. A hill-side rises on our left, with pines, and a distant house or two; on our right, is another hill, so that the view of Strath Tay is obtained between these hills, and under the dark grey, cloud-like masses of mist which have formed across the picture, over which last are bright spaces of silvery light. This work, a group of portraits of three young children, seated on the ground, and a stately life-size figure, at whole length, of the Duchess of Westminster, born Lady Constance Leveson-Gower, will probably form the chief of Mr. Millais's contributions to the Academy.

The annual distribution of premiums to students of the Royal Academy took place yesterday (Friday), 10th instant, the anniversary of the foundation of the Academy. The galleries containing the competition works of the students will be opened to any one presenting his or her address-card from ten till four to-day (Saturday), at Burlington House.

We are delighted to observe that the authorities are now having much of the stone-coloured paint removed from the walls and carvings of the interior of the Houses of Parliament. It was a cause for amazement when the authorities of a former day in Westminster had this stonework painted to imitate stone, although the natural tint of the material was a remarkably rich and beautiful one, and although its colour was one of the best grounds for employing this particular stone. The blunder of painting the interior of the Houses was one of the grossest and most unreasonable on record. We fear cleaning the paint off again will not reveal the colour of the

stone in all its natural beauty; but it is better to take off the paint than to let it remain on.

MR. E. S. PALMER, of Golden Square, has sent us an artist's proof of a most exquisitely toned etching, by M. Rajon, after a head and bust of a lady, styled 'Theophila Palmer.' The face is in a little more than profile, and bending to our right, with downcast eyes; a thin scarf is passed over the hair. The etching is one of the loveliest works of its kind: its drawing, modelling, and rendering of colour and chiaroscuro leave nothing to be desired. It is a great thing to say so, but it is right to declare that Reynolds was never better reproduced than in this gem of an etching. The etching is stamped by the Printers' Association, and placed in a guard-mount for its better preservation.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that the Italian Government has purchased the Castle of Frederic the Second in Apulia. "This has been effected by the Minister of Public Instruction, at the urgent request of the Alpine Club of Naples. Its history may be traced back to the thirteenth century, when the Emperor created out of a castle which belonged to the Norman chief, Robert Guiscard, the magnificent palace now called Castel del Monte. It is octagonal in form, and is covered with marbles extracted from the neighbouring mountains. Here Frederic the Second passed his summer months, indulging his passion for falconry, and here his son Manfred spent much of his time. Into a detailed description of the marvellous beauties of this edifice I will not enter, but any one may read of them in the 'Notizie storiche sul Palazzo di Federico II. a Castel del Monte,' published by Demetrio Salazar, Inspector of the National Museum of Naples. 'Notwithstanding the state of abandonment in which this monument,' says Salazar, 'has been permitted to remain, yet sufficient exists both of the building and the decorations to attest its former magnificence.'

The South Kensington Museum has lately acquired a magnificent Japanese cabinet, or rather shrine, closed by double doors, the inner pair of which is formed by rods of gilded metal, between which a green woven fabric is stretched; this material is transparent enough to admit an imperfect view of the interior, with its back of richly gilded plates, its pillars of most delicate carving, an entablature supported by the last being crowded by minutely wrought figures of animals over this on the gables of a roof. This is one of the most important specimens of Japanese art in the country, and will shortly be exhibited. The large collection of Persian ware, a fabric in which the Museum at South Kensington is exceptionally rich, is in course of arrangement.

We should have stated that, for the facts of the life of Mr. Wynn Ellis, concluding paragraph of our notice of his bequest to the National Gallery, we are indebted to the *Warehousemen and Droppers Trade Journal*. In the second line of this notice, for "Saturday last" read "Saturday week," &c., November 20th. The Trustees of the National Gallery have, the *Times* announces, accepted Mr. Ellis's legacy.

MUSIC

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY. Exeter Hall.—Conductor, Sir Michael Costa. FRIDAY NEXT, at 7.30. CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE of the 'MÉ-SIAH.' Vocalists, Madame Nourer, Miss Enriquez, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Fabiani, and Herr Rehrsens. Trumpet, Mr. T. Harper.—Tickets, 5s. and 10s. 6d. 6, Exeter Hall.

CONCERTS.

PROF. MACFARREN'S oratorio has taken such a firm hold of public opinion that, after its production at the Bristol Musical Festival, its transfer to the Sacred Harmonic Society, its performance at the Leeds Musical Festival, and at Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, &c., the work has been added to the *répertoire* of the Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts. It cannot be affirmed that the Sydenham execution on the 4th equalled in exactitude or in colouring the interpretations given at other places; but the audience, despite

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darkness which resembled an eclipse and the bitter cold, displayed a warmth in its applause that indicated that they were deeply impressed with the fine points of the composer's best production of the sacred school. It was certainly an advantage to have Madame Lemmens in the soprano and Madame Patey in the contralto parts, the original singers of the music assigned to Salome (daughter of Herodias) and to the Narrator; but to replace Mr. Santley as the Baptist was impossible, although in Mr. Cummings a fair substitute was found for Mr. E. Lloyd. The Crystal Palace Choir had a severe duty to perform, for some of the choruses are very difficult; and, in the attack of the fugue based on the theme of the 104th, hitherto wrongly called Croft's tune, there was a lack of point and precision. The most effective number was the impressive and melodious chorus, "This is my beloved Son," with its exquisite orchestration. Mr. Manns conducted the overture and the accompaniments with a due appreciation of the composer's intentions. The realization of the Biblical text, which requires the use of secular as well as of sacred styles, renders this oratorio a very remarkable conception, and this it is that has secured and probably will maintain the popularity of the production as a specimen of the skill and fancy of our national musicians.

Madame Essipoff's engagements in London are coming to a close. Her next series of concerts will be in Paris, and she will play at the chief cities in Germany prior to her return to St. Petersburg. On the 4th, in St. James's Hall, the Russian pianist played Chopin's Ballade in F minor (one of a set of four illustrative of the school of Songs without Words); the lady also had the pianoforte part of Herr Raff's Trio in C minor, having as able colleagues Herr Straus, violin, and Herr Daubert, violoncello. On the 6th, at the Monday Popular Concerts, Madame Essipoff executed Mendelssohn's Prelude and Fugue in E minor, Op. 35, No. 1 of a set of six of the Bach school, and took the pianoforte part in Schumann's Quartet in E flat, Op. 47, her coadjutors being MM. Wilhelmj, Zerbini, and Daubert. On the 8th, Madame Essipoff selected for her afternoon solo performances Beethoven's Sonata in C minor, Op. 11, and pieces by Bach, Handel, Scarlatti, Schubert, Weber, Chopin, Sterndale Bennett, and by the living composers, Herr Volkmann and Dr. Liszt. On the 9th, at the pianoforte recital of Fräulein Mehlig, Schumann's 'Andante con Variazione' and an Impromptu by Herr Reinecke, for two pianofortes, had as exponents the Russian and German pianists, showing that two great artists can unite cordially, without exhibiting that morbid desire for exclusive supremacy which exists, so unfortunately for art, in London. Fräulein Mehlig's single performances were Weber's Sonata in A flat, Bach's Prelude and Fugue in C minor, transcribed by Dr. Liszt, besides solos by Chopin and Schubert. Herr Wilhelmj who created a great sensation on the 6th by his brilliant playing of Bach's Chaconne in D minor, assisted at the recital of the German pianist.

Our new English pianist, Miss May, at her afternoon recital on the 7th, was associated with Herr Ludwig in Beethoven's Sonata in E flat major, Op. 12, No. 3, and, as a solo, introduced the variations and fugues for pianoforte in B flat major on a theme by Handel.

There has been another concert this week, that in aid of the Customs' Orphanage, in St. James's Hall, on the 9th, and at which the announced singers were Madame Blanche Cole, Miss J. Elton, Mr. Vernon Rigby, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. The love of music must be strong indeed when large audiences are found amidst the most severe weather listening to music of all schools.

Mr. W. Carter's Choir sang in Mozart's 'Twelfth Mass' and in Mendelssohn's 'Hymn of Praise,' in the Royal Albert Hall, on the 9th inst., the solo singers being Madame Edith Wynne, Miss Julian, Madame Patey, Messrs. Lloyd and Miles Bennett.

At the Choral Festival of the Choir Benevolent Fund,—which was founded in 1851 to aid the

widows and orphans of organists and lay clerks of cathedrals and collegiate churches,—in Westminster Abbey, last Wednesday afternoon, the musical service was by Attwood, Tallis, and Turle, with works by Orlando Gibbon, Dr. Wesley, Sir John Goss, and Dr. Bridge, the new organist of the Abbey. Dean Stanley preached the sermon. The choir of the London Chapels Royal, Cathedral, and Abbey were assisted by the lay members of Canterbury, Rochester, Eton, and Windsor choirs. Dr. Bridge's organ solos were a Toccata by Bach, a movement from one of Mozart's symphonies, and an Adagio by Merkel. The anthem, "It is a good thing to give thanks," by the organist, was an able specimen of ecclesiastical composition of the English cathedral school.

Musical Gossip.

HANDEL'S oratorio, 'Deborah,' was performed last night (the 10th) in Exeter Hall, by the Sacred Harmonic Society, too late for notice in this week's *Athenæum*. Next Friday (the 17th) will be the Christmas annual performance of the 'Messiah,' conducted by Sir Michael Costa. Madame Nouver, the new soprano, will make her *début* in London, and Herr Behrens will sing the bass part for the first time; the other artists promised are Miss Enriquez, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Fabrini.

AT the Tenterden Street Royal Academy of Music this afternoon (the 11th), there will be a trial of new works by the Musical Artists' Society.

FOUR free scholarships in the National Training School for Music will be competed for next month, under the sanction of the Council of the Society of Arts.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—"The examiners of the National Training School of Music have been requested to name, in the order of merit, according to their judgment, three persons for each of the professorships for harmony and composition, the pianoforte, the organ, the violin, and singing."

THE novelty of a new violin concerto, by Mr. Henry Holmes, will be introduced at this Saturday afternoon's Crystal Palace Concert. Another interesting event will be the revival of the 'Antigone' of Sophocles, with Mendelssohn's music, conducted by Mr. Manns, next Tuesday afternoon. This fine work had great success in Covent Garden Theatre, in 1845, with Miss Vandenhoff and her father in the cast, Prof. Macfarren directing the musical illustrations.

THE series of Monday Popular Concerts before Christmas will close next Monday.

HERR WILHELMJ will give a farewell concert on the 17th inst., assisted by Madame Essipoff, Herren Ries and Daubert, Mr. Zerbini, and Sir J. Benedict.

WE cannot see that in its modified form the proposed Bill, to be introduced next session, to secure the repairs and maintenance of the Royal Albert Hall, materially improves the prospects of the seatholders. It is all very well to state that they will have the agreeable privilege of taxing themselves, and that no contribution is to be over 2l. per seat; but we must first learn who hold the freehold sites in the hall, and also whether the Council has not already a majority. Will the votes be by proxy? If so, experience has shown how these are acquired and manipulated in limited liability and other companies. One curious clause in the Bill, it is stated, will give power to buy up the interests of refractory seat-holders. There seems to be a notion abroad that the Exhibition Commissioners, holding a large surplus and possessing land of great value, ought to take in hand the Royal Albert Hall, and make it the great centre of art and science of the metropolis.

THE *Musical World* publishes a report of a case at the Clerkenwell County Court, which bears on the copyright question. The proprietor of a music hall has been convicted in penalties of 4l., with full costs, for having caused to be performed two airs from Wallace's opera of 'Maritana' without permission of the registered assignee and proprietor, under the Act 3 and 4 Wm. IV.

cap. 15, secs. 1 and 2, protecting the right of representation of an opera or of any part thereof. The judge referred to the decisions of the superior courts, all the points of law being in the plaintiff's favour. The New York music publishers not only reprint the works of foreign composers without leave, but they ascribe to musicians compositions for which they are not responsible. This fate has befallen Dr. Von Bülow, who, in 1853, had arranged a 'Marche Héroïque' for the pianoforte, on themes from a popular Hungarian opera by Herr Erkel. The arrangement was published in America as an original production, and Dr. Von Bülow has protested energetically against the falsification of the title and against the piracy. We have read some curious reports of the "interviewing" of two New York publishers in a new musical organ, called the *Musical Trade Review*, which had criticized the 'Heroic March.' One of these publishers frankly stated that there were not above six composers in the United States to whom he could afford to pay five dollars for a song or a piece, and that, therefore, he and other publishers had to look to foreign professors, and to pirate their new works. We commend this statement of New York music-sellers to the attention of the Committee now charged to report as to the laws of copyright at home and abroad. One New York publisher (Mr. Peters) added that the great publishers wanted a Copyright Law, as they could then buy up all the great authors, and piracy suited best the small traders.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Vienna, on the 28th ult.:—"Herr Wagner is making himself ridiculous here, and the Viennese are not so mad as they used to be with their deity, for their idol has fallen to the ground, and they find he is but mortal after all, although a very clever one. His 'Tannhäuser' has been given without the customary 'cuts,' with new scenery and costumes. In the first act, real hounds and horses run and gallop across the stage; and the baritone was kicked by a horse, for fiery steeds were selected. The Viennese wits have had a fine field for scandal and merriment, owing to the introduction, in the first act, of Leda and the Swan of mythological memory; one of the principal *dansesuses* was the Leda and the Swan was a very clever piece of mechanism, just like a living one. I need not say more; but this realistic incident has proved too much even for the composer's supporters here, and they protest against his going so far as he has done. The prominent position of Leda and the Swan at an opera-house has given rise in the journals to several witty articles. Herr Wagner gave offence to the artists in the opera, by addressing them in an imperious fashion, but he apologized the next day for having treated them like schoolboys. We are full of nothing else, as topics, than the Pope and Wagner; an odd association, perhaps, but infallibility is claimed in art as well as religion."

NEW YORK papers contain glowing reports of the great artistic and financial success of the concerts in the new Chickering Hall, at which Dr. Von Bülow performed concertos by Beethoven, Henselt, and Liszt, besides solos by Chopin, Herr Raff, Bach, Mendelssohn, &c. The enthusiasm of the large audiences was quite equal to that exhibited when Herr Rubinstein took New York amateurs by storm. Herr Wachtel, with an inferior German troupe, continued to fill the Academy of Music Theatre. He, oddly enough, sometimes sings his solos in Italian, his pronunciation of which was never good.

DRAMA

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, F. R. Chatterton.—Every Evening at 7, 'THE WHITE HAT.' At 7 45, 'SHAUGHRAUN.' Mr. D. Boucicault, Messrs D. Fisher, H. Sinclair, W. Terris, S. Barry, and J. K. Howard; Mrs. D. Boucicault, Messrs R. Leclercq, Sylvia Hudson, Everard, Hudson, &c. And 'A NABOB FOR AN HOUR.'

Dramatic Gossip.

'TOOLE AT SEA,' by Mr. R. Reece, is a whimsical farce, showing the imaginary adventures that befall the comedian in a dream, consequent upon par-

taking too freely, during a voyage, of remedies, alcoholic and other, against sea-sickness. It is acted with much drollery by Mr. Toole and Miss E. Farren, and is the cause of much merriment.

A NEW drama by Mr. Byron and a new burlesque by Mr. Farnie are "underlined" at the Gaiety.

'A LESSON IN LOVE,' which has been revived at the Strand Theatre, is an adaptation by Mr. C. S. Cheltnam, first produced eleven years ago at the St. James's. In this Mr. Vernon, who is steadily following Mr. Charles Mathews through his favourite characters, played the principal rôle, of which that veteran comedian was the creator. Miss Ada Swanborough replaced Mrs. Mathews as a widow, who administered the lesson in love; and Mr. Grahame essayed the part of the rather simple youth who is its recipient. Other characters were supported by Miss Marion Terry, Miss Lavis, and Mr. Cox. The comedy is in the manner of Scribe, and is probably built upon one of the almost innumerable vaudevilles of that most prolific of modern dramatists. It has all the artificiality of which Scribe could seldom divest himself, but interests the spectator by the manner in which its secret is kept to the close of the action. A favourable reception was awarded it.

'THE WHITE CAT' obtained a moderately favourable reception at the Queen's, but seems scarcely strong enough to gain a lasting popularity. Its strength lies in the opportunities it offers for scenic display and ballet, and its proper home is the Alhambra. The principal parts were played by Miss Rose Massey, Mr. Stoye, Mr. Perrini, and Mr. Warboys. It has few literary pretensions, though some of the songs by Mr. H. S. Leigh are good in their way. The music by Mr. Jonas is facile and catching.

SOME changes have been made in the cast of 'An Unequal Match,' at the Charing Cross. They are confined, however, to the subordinate characters.

A PLAY, prolonging the historical series commenced in 'Charles the First,' and continued in 'Buckingham,' has been completed by Mr. W. G. Wills, and will, we understand, be shortly produced. Its title is 'Nell Gwynne.' The heroine, we believe, will be played by Miss Fowler.

A FIVE-ACT drama, founded upon Mr. Joseph Hatton's romance of 'Clytie,' and named after it, has been successfully produced at the Liverpool Amphitheatre. Miss Henrietta Hodson played the heroine.

The honours paid to Mlle. Déjazet at her funeral contrast strikingly with the treatment actors have at times received in France. The pallbearers included M. Halanzier, director of the opera; M. Sardou, M. Lafontaine, Baron Taylor, and M. Camille Doucet, of the Académie. Many thousands of people attended the funeral, and the business of Paris appeared to be suspended along the entire line of the procession. Here is a change from the time when actors were grudging Christian burial, and when a woman like La Champmeslé, who had more than one point of resemblance with Déjazet, declined on her death-bed the sacraments which were offered her only on the condition of repudiating her profession of comedian. This fact is vouched for by M. Auguste Vacquerie. It does not appear in the memoir by Parfait. *Après de La Champmeslé* it seems worth while to revive a clever and forgotten epigram. She had for lover Racine, who, it is said, wrote especially for her his 'Phèdre.' The poet was, however, forsaken for the Comte de Clermont Tonnerre; whereupon the following quatrain was circulated:—

A la plus tendre amour elle fut destinée,
Qui prit longtemps Racine dans son cœur:
Mais par un insigne malheur,
Le Tonnerre est venu qui l'a détachée.

Boileau also wrote a poem on this actress which is unquotable.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. F. O.—A. G.—W. B.—S. B. N.—A. K. H.—H. B.—W. T. W.—J. D.—G. A. C.—J. H. S.—B.—W. B. R.—G. B.—received.

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From the TIMES of December 4.

"The deciphering of Assyrian Cuneiform is marching at a pace that must astonish its most ardent admirers and surpass the expectations of its most devoted followers. Treasures that have been kept as enigmas for the last quarter of a century in the British Museum have now given up more of their secret meaning. Kedorloamer had been interviewed, Assurbanipal had been cross-examined, and now Bel and the Dragon have been brought into court. For the interpreters have put on seven-leaved boots and walked into the realms of infinity, where an old unknown region has been discovered, revealing in broken outline its grotesque features and astounding forms.... Now the mythology, or rather the religion, of the Semitic polytheists has been conquered.... The curtain is raised, and the first act of the traditional history of Babylon is before the eyes of the spectator.... The mass of materials in Mr. Smith's work has been collected and translated with rare diligence and great ability. If not real genius, a stern, the impulse of which cannot be overlooked, has been made in a study which has a religious as well as a literary value, for here are the contemporary records of Babylon, the thoughts and ideas of that great Semitic centre from which Moses descended and Abraham sprang. This was the religion of Enoch and the faith of Nineveh, these the current histories of Bel and Nebo. Hence came the later cosmogonies, hence Hesiod plucked his traditions, Calisthenes his information, and Democritus his translation.... If 'oriental erudition' ultimately overtakes the progress already made, the honour of the enterprise will always remain with those who began, and to the soundness of whose judgment, the energy of whose exertions, and the penetration of whose intellect is due one of the most brilliant discoveries of the nineteenth century."

N.B.—The FIFTH EDITION was issued on Tuesday last of

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